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WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

VOLUME II

March 11, 1999

Old Community Hall, Galena, Alaska

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Mr. Ronald Sam, Vice Chairman
- Ms. Angela O. Demientieff, Secretary
- Mr. Raymond L. Collins
- Mr. Benedict Jones
- Mr. Henry Deacon
- Mr. Jack L. Reakoff
- Mr. Michael Stickman
- Mr. Sampson Henry
- Mr. Vince Mathews, Coordinator

## P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record - 8:30 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I'd like to reconvene the Western Interior Subsistence Council. Roll call?

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. -- okay. Mr. Chairman, we have Angela here, Mickey, Benedict, Ron, Sam Henry, Ray Collins, Jack Reakoff, and Henry Deacon, so all eight members are present.

CHAIRMAN SAM: The quorum is established. We can go into business. Yesterday we left off with the Koyukuk co-moose management project, and it is back on the agenda, along with local and other reports.

So yesterday we skipped over the 1998 Annual Report, review and approval. Vince?

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'd direct your attention to Tab S as in Sleetmute, and this is a copy of the annual report I sent you. Actually I sent it on New Year's Eve to all of you, a copy of it, because when we developed the topics last fall, the Council as well as Staff felt that it would be good to have the full Council review it. I received no comments back.

For the record, I'll just touch upon the topics, and then ask for comments. You -- or the Council recommended that the Board give a commitment to protecting a traditional way of using snares. I'll leave that as that. You'll see the wording there.

You were asking the Board what authority it has to -- what authority the Board has to set additional requirements, guidelines, and restrictions on nonsubsistence uses. This was in reference to the discussion on the Kaiyu (ph) Flats last fall in Allakaket.

The next item on there is report on guide/outfitting/air taxi operations, where you requested a report on guides, and outfitters, and operations in the entire Western Interior Region, and support staff indicated that could be available by the fall of 1999. They're not here, so I can't confirm that, but you're requesting that the Board generate that report.

You also wanted a discussion of the wanton waste,

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1 what is the legal, social, and traditional understandings of  
2 waste. And that's there.

3

4 And then I usually add, just because of the feeling  
5 of the importance of the annual report, a summary of the  
6 Regional Council actions. I won't go over those. Those are  
7 before you.

8

9 So with that, I'll stop and see if there's any  
10 questions on the topics, and how I tried to capture your  
11 thoughts on those issues, and if there are additional issues  
12 that need to be added to the annual report. And a quick  
13 reminder, what this does is that it goes to the Board, the  
14 Board reviews it, Staff fleshes out the issues for the Board,  
15 and then the Board will respond to your annual report at the  
16 fall meeting. So we have some time here to do some  
17 additional writing, but it would be subject only to the  
18 Chair's approval of that writing. It wouldn't go back,  
19 because you don't meet until after all this transpires as far  
20 as Board review. And with that, I'll see if there's any  
21 questions or topics?

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Council members, any questions  
24 so far? Vince, I do have a question, or maybe a request  
25 concerning the guiding activities within our Western Interior  
26 boundaries. Is there any way that we can direct someone to  
27 find out all the guiding activities and who approved all  
28 these activities, and what can we do to slow them down or  
29 oppose them, if we can?

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Well, my understanding, and  
32 again other staff were more involved in this discussion in  
33 fall, is that guiding under commercial guiding activities,  
34 getting that data appears to be fairly readily available, but  
35 I'm not sure. I'm basing on other conversation.

36

37 The second part of that is we could in that report,  
38 if the Board feels that it's supports you, having this  
39 report, flesh out the way Jim Good was yesterday explaining  
40 how guides are set up on refuges, guiding operations on  
41 Bureau of Land Management, and I suppose on the national  
42 preserves, too. If you wanted the process layout, that could  
43 be part of this report.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Do you know if Jim Good  
46 will be in?

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Please?

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Will Jim.....

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1  
2 MR. SPINDLER: Yeah.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

5  
6 MR. SPINDLER: He's calling to find out about  
7 Ed Merritt right now, but he will be back (Indiscernible,  
8 away from microphone).

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Because I think that  
11 the -- one of the reasons that we feel left out on the  
12 hearings or granting of these activities, guiding activities,  
13 is that we still feel that we are left out in the blind, or  
14 out in the cold when these things come up for consideration.  
15 I'd like more advertisements or more lead information before  
16 these permits are -- permits or licenses are granted or area  
17 -- areas are given to these guides. Yes?

18  
19 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, two topics, one  
20 I'll do timely on your discussion there would be one  
21 suggestion would be when you get the report, or even now,  
22 suggest that information on pending guide areas, I suppose  
23 that would be the term, that that information be provided to  
24 the tribal councils at their meetings, would be one  
25 suggestion. And I know that Jim -- I'm not ignoring on the  
26 record that he said that it was sent to the tribal councils,  
27 but it might be needed on some areas that it be part of a  
28 tribal council agenda item, request that it be an agenda  
29 item. If the tribal council elects not to, then that's their  
30 election to do that. So that might be somewhere where you  
31 want to go with this, in addition to your consortiums on.....

32  
33 Each area has different ways of dealing with things.  
34 Some you, as you know, the corporation consortium is more  
35 active in an area than others, so there may be a multi-prong  
36 approach.

37  
38 But realize the operations of the individual units,  
39 conservation units, parks, refuges, et cetera, you have  
40 authority to suggest, but, you know,.....

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

43  
44 MR. MATHEWS: .....you really -- your main  
45 audience is the Board. But I think the agencies are  
46 sympathetic, but you are invading into management, and so my  
47 back is readily starting to sweat already here a little bit.  
48 But I think they're sympathetic with suggestions and working  
49 together on it, but we just have to -- I'm just cautioning  
50 you on management. You are charged in ANILCA to address

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1 management strategies, and plans, and et cetera. Basically  
2 up to this point you've mainly stayed in the regulatory  
3 regime, because of the amount of work load.

4  
5 And then -- and the second item, I need a  
6 clarification on that, because when I went over the  
7 transcripts, writing that one little paragraph there on  
8 guiding and outfitting took me a long time, because the way I  
9 read the transcript, you were requesting the report cover  
10 federal, state and private lands. The conversation this  
11 morning kind of indicates just federal lands, and that's a  
12 clarification that I need -- the annual report needs  
13 direction on.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, through this Council I  
16 think that we can only direct federal lands, but.....

17  
18 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: .....but the letter and  
21 advertisements for these pending granting of operation,  
22 guiding operations, they should hit all the tribal councils,  
23 because they use all the land.

24  
25 Do we have any more comments on the Council? Ray?

26  
27 MR. COLLINS: Well, it might be useful if we  
28 were notified, too, if we had the information that guiding  
29 permits are being reviewed for X-refuge or whatever then we  
30 have some contact with the people in our area, and they're  
31 the ones -- we're the ones that get called about complaints  
32 (indiscernible, coughing). Maybe our knowing would keep us  
33 informed so we could inform people that are talking to us  
34 about.....

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

37  
38 MR. MATHEWS: I'm not -- I don't know the  
39 cycle of this, so I think it's.....

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

42  
43 MR. MATHEWS: .....a wise suggestion, but I  
44 don't know the cycle of this. Does it come up annually, five  
45 years, three years? I don't know the cycle, so maybe others  
46 would like to comment on that, that this is a viable thing to  
47 have it come before this Council. You meet twice a year, so  
48 you're fairly accessible. But I don't know the scheduling of  
49 how guide permits are reviewed. Are they annual -- annually  
50 bringing some up or.....

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1 MR. COLLINS: Well, I have some knowledge of  
2 what happened this year, because my wife was involved in it.  
3 They bring a team into Anchorage and go through them for all  
4 the refuges. So it was done already in February of this  
5 year. So you'd need to know probably in the fall. But I  
6 don't know if some are coming up each year. I think once  
7 they're given, they're good for five years. That's what I  
8 heard yesterday. Somebody can speak to that.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tom?

11  
12 MR. EARLY: I'm Tom Early, the manager of  
13 Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, and we have one guide area  
14 on Kanuti Refuge which came open this year, because the  
15 previous guide, which was five years ago, selected five years  
16 ago, had not used that area, and according to policy, we  
17 terminated him, and advertised for a new one. And no  
18 applicants were received. And we did not re-advertise, so  
19 we will not have any guide on Kanuti, at least this next  
20 year.

21  
22 But the policy is if a guide -- when we issue a  
23 permit for a guide, it's a five-year permit, and after -- if  
24 the guide drops out prior to five years, or there is an  
25 offense, something that is wrong, and we terminate the guide,  
26 then we will readvertise. So it could be on an annual basis.  
27 But usually it's done in the fall so that the panel convenes  
28 like Ray was saying, in February -- or January or February,  
29 and then a panel makes the selections statewide for refuges  
30 for the guide. And each permit is a five-year permit. And  
31 that was mandated by the policy from basically D.C. to us  
32 when we started this about five, six years ago.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: So, first of all, the -- when  
35 was the last time Duncan was out there then?

36  
37 MR. EARLY: He never was really.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

40  
41 MR. EARLY: Yeah. All during his time that  
42 he had the permit for Kanuti Refuge, he had several clients  
43 lined up, but things fell through, and he basically never  
44 utilized his permit on Kanuti.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, for recording purposes,  
47 this is Tom Early with Kanuti Wildlife Refuge.

48  
49 And anybody have any questions for Tom?

50

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1 MR. DEACON: Anybody here from Innoko Refuge?  
2 That's -- because I want to know more about guiding and stuff  
3 in.....

4  
5 MR. EARLY: Ed told me he would be in this  
6 morning some time. I think they're flying up this morning.  
7 Ed Merritt.

8  
9 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. Henry, Jim Good is going  
10 over to the office to call to if Ed's flying up, but the  
11 weather down that way we're not sure of. But Ed's supposed  
12 to be here this morning.

13  
14 MR. DEACON: Because the guiding stuff is a  
15 concern, too, in our area, in our portion of.....

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tom.

18  
19 MR. HENRY: I'd like to ask.....

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Go ahead. Go ahead,  
22 and ask.....

23  
24 MR. HENRY: Tom? You say there is nobody  
25 guiding at -- on the Kanuti?

26  
27 MR. EARLY: Yes, that's correct.

28  
29 MR. HENRY: Almost every fall when we go way  
30 up on that river, we hear airplanes and further on back, and  
31 a lot of airplanes flying in there.

32  
33 MR. EARLY: There's -- we have usually one to  
34 two permits for air taxi operators, and they usually operate  
35 out of Bettles, but those are not guides. And they'll land  
36 on -- usually -- well, they have to land outside for moose  
37 hunting, land outside the controlled use area, which covers  
38 about two-thirds of Kanuti Refuge, so there's very little  
39 hunting within the controlled use area at all. I mean, we do  
40 check that in the fall, but no hunting by outsiders outside  
41 of Game Management Unit 24. That's -- part of our controlled  
42 use area states that it's open only for moose hunting for  
43 residents of Game Management Unit 24, plus three other  
44 villages. But.....

45  
46 MR. HENRY: Yeah, there's some fuel stashed  
47 here and there around lakes, some big lakes. There's about  
48 three or four places where there's about three or four  
49 barrels tied up to big trees.

50

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1 MR. EARLY: I am not aware of that. That's  
2 on Kanuti?  
3  
4 MR. HENRY: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)  
5  
6 MR. EARLY: Okay. Maybe we can get together,  
7 if that's okay,.....  
8  
9 MR. HENRY: Yeah.  
10  
11 MR. EARLY: .....and you can tell me where  
12 that is.  
13  
14 MR. HENRY: Oh, I really don't.....  
15  
16 MR. EARLY: I'd appreciate it.  
17  
18 MR. HENRY: .....wouldn't know.....  
19  
20 MR. EARLY: Okay.  
21  
22 MR. HENRY: .....the exact place, but.....  
23  
24 MR. EARLY: Yeah.  
25  
26 MR. HENRY: .....I can tell you where -- just  
27 about where it might be.  
28  
29 MR. EARLY: Uh-hum. Okay. Yeah.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: I know the (indiscernible) --  
32 Yeah.  
33  
34 MR. COLLINS: Tom, there's.....  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.  
37  
38 MR. COLLINS: There's an annual report they  
39 make to the refuge, don't they, on the number of clients  
40 taken and so on? So that's information that could be shared  
41 with us, so we could kind monitor what's going on, too.  
42  
43 MR. EARLY: Yeah, that is correct.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.  
46  
47 MR. EARLY: Yes. And it could be made  
48 available.  
49  
50 MR. COLLINS: See if it jibes with what we're



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1 hearing from the people, other people that are out there.

2  
3 MR. EARLY: Uh-hum.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: If it's possible, we'd like to  
6 get.....

7  
8 MR. EARLY: Yeah, I think we try to pass that  
9 information on to your meetings in Allakaket and Alakanuk,  
10 usually verbally, and in newsletters, too, I've been. But we  
11 do try to pass it on.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida?

14  
15 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff  
16 Committee member. I was just going to make a recommendation  
17 in your annual report request, that perhaps you could ask for  
18 the specific regulations and written policies to be submitted  
19 to the Council in addition to the reports of the annual  
20 permit holders.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: State that again now? You  
23 lost me somewhere.

24  
25 MS. HILDEBRAND: This discussion began with  
26 your annual report, and in your annual report, you were  
27 asking for certain data to be submitted to the councils, and  
28 I was suggesting that the regulations that govern refuge  
29 permits for guiding or outfitting or whatever, those  
30 regulations and the policies regarding those regulations be  
31 submitted in writing to this Council in addition to the  
32 reports of the permit users and what they have taken during  
33 the report year.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ida. Would that  
36 please the Board? I think that would answer most of our  
37 questions, and we are well aware. Since we are on this  
38 Council, it seems that we get all the business, like Ray  
39 said, and we've got to know about it. Anything else on the  
40 guiding? Did you have a question?

41  
42 MR. VENT: Yeah, we have people guiding in  
43 our area, but also down on the Dulbi River area there's been  
44 some individual guides. Maybe some of it's legal, maybe it's  
45 illegal, but, you know, we don't know -- I guess you guys  
46 wanted to keep track of all -- how many people are heading up  
47 here with your permits saying (ph), they're coming from that  
48 (ph) area, but they could also come in from different areas.  
49 All these permits. The count on there, I haven't -- I'm not  
50 sure if it's accurate, but they're counting how many people

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1 is actually going in there.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Could I have a  
4 chair up here?

5

6 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah, there you go.  
7 Thank you, George.

8

9 MR. VENT: Now, your accuracy on these  
10 counts, you're saying there 600-something people up there. I  
11 bet if we sat down there, there would be quite a few more  
12 people than is actually counted going up there, because some  
13 of these people come up from different areas. They don't  
14 just come from one area. They're coming from all over, and  
15 there's people that are saying, oh, we brought some people up  
16 there, because we're guiding, assistant guiding. I don't  
17 know who runs the big show in there, the major guy, but I  
18 know there's a lot of assistant guides going up there with  
19 people, and they're going further and further up the river.  
20 And what I'm hearing was they're only supposed to go as far  
21 as Dulbi River. Now they're going past Dulbi River, they're  
22 going into Dulbi Sloughs, they're going onto private lands,  
23 and there has been nothing done to stop it. We've been  
24 complaining about it, and telling the Fish and Game, you  
25 know, you guys have got to go check this out, but by the time  
26 they're going to be checking it out, it's a week later, and  
27 there's nothing going on there. And it's kind of a slow  
28 progress to what we want. When we tell them something, maybe  
29 they should have been doing something about it, but if it was  
30 a native person, they'd be there the next day, maybe a couple  
31 hours later. That's what we're kind of complaining about.  
32 And if it has to do with other people, they're kind of slow  
33 on that.

34

35 And another thing is whenever we make complaints or  
36 anything like this, and the State won't react to your  
37 actions, it kind of looks bad, 'cause we want to try to work  
38 with them, but they're not going to, you know, work along  
39 with us, that doesn't give us good faith in what they're  
40 doing. Our people are getting kind of fed up with that. And  
41 this hunting is really getting out of hand up there. So I  
42 think your regulations could -- should be a little stronger  
43 on how many people is going in that area, 'cause they're  
44 going to start wiping that area out if we don't try to do  
45 anything about it. Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah. For the record, that  
48 was Darrell Vent out of Huslia. This will come up later in  
49 the agenda, Darrell, we do have a resolution addressing this,  
50 too. And right now I'd like to get back to the annual

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1 report. Any Council members have questions for Vince?

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, so if I'm understanding  
4 correctly, then we need to correct -- or need to have the  
5 annual report reflect that the report for guiding activities  
6 and air taxi, et cetera, would be on federal lands. And I  
7 think there was a concurrence, what Ida was suggesting, that  
8 specific regulations and policy of agencies on  
9 guiding/outfitting activities would be part of this report?

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Either that or provided to  
12 this Council.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there anything to add?

21

22 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It's going to be part of the  
23 report.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: This is to be part of the.....

26

27 MR. STICKMAN: How about the transporters?  
28 There's people who transport people out to the refuge or --  
29 and they just -- that's all they do is transport them.

30

31 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Air taxis is what  
32 he's.....

33

34 MR. SPINDLER: Yeah, that.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: And I think that's what  
37 Darrell Vent is talking about, too.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: I think once we flesh out this  
40 whole issue here, then we're going to have to address  
41 terminology and ability to monitor these other activities and  
42 that. So -- I mean, we have several staff here from  
43 different refuges that could address that, but.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, because this would be  
46 the opportune time to discuss it, because right your report  
47 on guiding/outfitting/air taxi operations. Is that your  
48 concern?

49

50 MR. STICKMAN: Well, they're transporters,

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1 you know, that what they do is they just transport people out  
2 there, and they drop them off. They're not responsible for  
3 what they do after they drop them off. You know, they just  
4 take them out there and drop them off and their job is done.

5  
6 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: And they're not  
7 regulated.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: How can we address that --  
10 this?

11  
12 MR. STICKMAN: Well, you know, they must have  
13 -- be able to get some kind of permit to do that, to be a  
14 transporter.

15  
16 MR. VENT: There's one incident where that  
17 happened -- one incident where that happened, up around the  
18 Dulbi Lake area, we found some people that they dropped off  
19 by -- maybe it was a float plane or something, and they  
20 dropped them off with rubber rafts. Well, after they got  
21 through hunting, they came down the -- I don't know where  
22 they got their moose or anything, but they came down the  
23 river, and then came back to the main river and went down. I  
24 don't know if that's legal, or how that's supposed to happen,  
25 or they could -- could they do that? You know, there's a lot  
26 of issues in there that are not really explained. Our people  
27 are not really familiar with all these rules and regulations  
28 that they're making. They're getting kind of fed up.

29  
30 Plus there's -- I had another one where we were  
31 trying to figure out -- they came down the main river all the  
32 way from Bettles, but they shot a moose around Cut-off, and  
33 they took the horns, and buried the whole moose. I don't  
34 know if there was any record or -- we talked about it. I  
35 don't know if anybody -- I know we got pictures of it, but I  
36 don't know if anything happened with it after we got pictures  
37 and everything. I believe it was reported.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: How do you want to handle  
40 this, do this when.....

41  
42 MR. MATHEWS: I don't mean to put it off,  
43 because we do have excellent discussion here and that. I  
44 think if -- I think the Board would -- I can't predict what  
45 the Board would do, but I think the Board would support this  
46 report being put together, and at that time would be the time  
47 to talk about all of it. I'm sure many of the staff here can  
48 speak about the process with the different permitting  
49 processes, but I'm not sure we're all prepared for it, so I  
50 don't want to put it off, but I also think it might be better

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1 for prep time, to have this as maybe a fall topic with --  
2 assuming this report. But even if this report doesn't, I  
3 think the agencies have heard that there's a concern about  
4 the process, that we would then set aside time at that time  
5 to discuss this whole process of permitting.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jim Good. Microphone, please.

8  
9 MR. GOOD: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
10 and your Council. I'm Jim Good, here from the  
11 Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge.

12  
13 Just a little clarification on this, and I don't want  
14 to belabor it or anything, but on the Koyukuk Refuge or the  
15 complex, we do issue special use permits for transporters,  
16 and then as I had mentioned a little bit yesterday, we do  
17 have the guide/outfitters, and that's a little different  
18 situation. But they also have a special use permit. We have  
19 the transporters who fly clients out onto either the Koyukuk,  
20 the northern unit of the Innoko, the Kaiyu Flats area that is  
21 referred to, over the Nowitna Refuge. And that's handled  
22 through a special use permit process. And the transporters  
23 then at the end of the season have to submit a report to us  
24 saying how many clients they took out, and then also how many  
25 days they were there. So, I mean, that's our process for --  
26 through the special use permit for the transporters and the  
27 guide/outfitters, just on the refuge.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. So in effect, even  
30 though we -- even though we do have a figure locked in to --  
31 up to so many permits on this registration permit hunt, we go  
32 beyond that through this special use permit, do we? Don't  
33 we?

34  
35 MR. GOOD: There hasn't been a number  
36 established for transporters. They bring the people in by  
37 airplane. I know this is an item that has been discussed and  
38 talked about some, even within the Fish and Wildlife Service,  
39 but there's -- there has been no -- there's no set number  
40 established for the number of air transporters to bring  
41 clients in. We have -- I forget, I think we have about 12, I  
42 can't say for sure. We have about 12 air transporters. Two  
43 that come to mind are Willow Air and Ptarmigan Air. There  
44 are some others, that we issue permits to. And then there's  
45 one -- there's a Don Duncan who has a special use permit. He  
46 fishes for pike, primarily trophy pike. But he goes by boat.  
47 But then there are others who come in by, you know, -- I'm  
48 just telling you so you kind of have a feel for our process.  
49 All the refuges are the same way, but there's no -- and Tom  
50 Early can -- he might -- if he wanted to add to it, we have

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1 no set number of air transporters. We do have a set number  
2 for the guide/outfitters on the refuges.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are these surrounding villages  
5 aware of this special use permits being issued?

6  
7 MR. GOOD: Well, as far as I know, they are.  
8 Now, if they're not, I -- you know, it's gone on for -- I  
9 don't know how long this -- as long as the refuges have been  
10 here,.....

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. I think.....

13  
14 MR. GOOD: .....as far as I know. I can't  
15 speak for these folks in the villages, but I know that a lot  
16 of them, they do know.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: We're right in the middle of  
19 our annual report, and.....

20  
21 MR. GOOD: Pardon me?

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Can.....

24  
25 MR. GOOD: No, that's okay. I was just  
26 trying to clarify it for you so you kind of understood.....

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: And the big hole up here is  
29 lack of information leaking down to the local tribal  
30 councils, and the advisory councils, and I think that's --  
31 we've got to do a better job with this.

32  
33 MR. GOOD: Okay. Well, I certainly tried. I  
34 mean, there -- you know, I wasn't aware that maybe there were  
35 -- you know, there were problems. I -- we go through our  
36 special use permit process. We do it every year. I'm the  
37 one for the Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuges that, you know, I go  
38 through -- I go through the process. They send us a letter  
39 requesting -- you know, they have to have a business license,  
40 they have to have their -- what's the other one? They have  
41 to have an in- -- there's a certain amount of insurance.  
42 They have to have all that before we can issue them a special  
43 use permit for transporting, air transport. And they take in  
44 -- sometimes they take -- they'll take hunters, they take  
45 fishermen sometimes. They'll take bird watchers. They'll  
46 take like that, to go out on these refuges. There are also  
47 down in the Ruby area right now that have -- they haven't  
48 gotten in touch with us yet, but they're talking about taking  
49 people on the Nowitna River with kayaks to just observe  
50 wildlife and do wildlife photography. But I'm just trying to

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1 explain our.....

2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

4  
5 MR. GOOD: Okay.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that.....

8  
9 MR. GOOD: Okay.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: I was lost somewhere in that  
12 transporter thing. Go ahead, Taylor?

13  
14 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I  
15 could offer a suggestion to try and help keep us focused. I  
16 believe the stage we're at right is really identifying a  
17 problem, the issue, and its dimensions and the strength of  
18 feelings, strength of concern on the part of some  
19 communities. The next step that you've kind of mapped out is  
20 to gather some information systematically, to have some  
21 things in writing, and to be able to look at the facts and  
22 the procedures, so right now I think your focus is to  
23 identify the information that you want, gather it together,  
24 brought together for the Council to work with next fall. So  
25 a lot of the problem-solving discussion is going to happen  
26 next fall once you have basic information put together. So I  
27 believe what you're trying to do in the annual report is  
28 really to identify the information that you want gathered  
29 together for the use of the Council. It's probably a little  
30 hard to do all of that just verbally right today.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-hum.

33  
34 MR. BRELSFORD: Different people have  
35 information, and some of it's fairly complicated. It's a  
36 little hard to pick up all the details just in a verbal  
37 presentation, so I think the better focus is really to get  
38 this stuff put together in a report with some of the details  
39 that Ida outlined, and then plan a work session, a really  
40 focused discussion in the fall time once you have that  
41 background information put together.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-hum. Yes, that sounds  
44 good. I think we've got some place there. Finally.

45  
46 Okay. Where are we at now, Vince?

47  
48 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think you're at  
49 the point of approving the annual report with the additions  
50 as discussed, unless there's other issues that people want to

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1 add to the annual report. And I've not received any from  
2 either agencies or from councils or from other tribes or  
3 whatever.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: The next item under wanton  
6 waste, this has been thrown around since day one, and it will  
7 be thrown around. I cannot see anything that we can do at  
8 this time. So all we were asking for under wanton waste was  
9 a good definition or.....

10  
11 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, you asked for two things  
12 under -- well, you asked for one, and then indicated  
13 direction on another. You're asking the Board to work with  
14 the State on wanton waste definitions to incorporate  
15 salvageable edible meat, and then you were exploring having a  
16 workshop this coming fall. I've got the wrong date down  
17 there. Well, maybe I don't, I don't know. I'm losing it  
18 now. But anyway.....

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: yeah.

21  
22 MR. MATHEWS: .....but at your next meeting  
23 you wanted to have this as a workshop. And there's going on  
24 on Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta with their Regional Advisory Council  
25 on the same subject, and I don't know if other want to talk  
26 about the status of that development, but other regions have  
27 been discussing what is wanton waste, what is waste in a  
28 traditional sense, and what is waste to other people, and  
29 that it swirls in any topic we have where we have user  
30 conflict of waste. And then there's the term legal waste,  
31 you know, wanton waste, so that's the two items there.

32  
33 I don't know how the Board would go ahead and do  
34 that, but they are meeting with the Fish and Game  
35 periodically. We have a liaison group that works with Fish  
36 and Game, and the Board is going to be meeting with the other  
37 boards, the State boards to discuss fisheries and et cetera,  
38 so I don't know if that would be brought -- not brought up at  
39 that time, but there is dialogue going on between the  
40 different agencies and regulatory boards.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray?

43  
44 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I think  
45 part of the thing we need here is information like we did in  
46 the guides and others so that we can look at -- the attempts  
47 to fix this have been various wordings, and there have been  
48 various attempts and some have moved now to require that you  
49 keep the meat on the bone and so on. If we had all of that  
50 information in the workshop in the fall, we could kind of be



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1 looking at that. And it really fits in with the guide and  
2 outfitters, especially the air taxis, because that's where a  
3 lot of the waste occurs, I know. Sometimes the air taxis  
4 don't get them out of the field, and they're not legally  
5 accountable for that. They don't have to worry about them  
6 bringing all the meat out and so on, so the problems are  
7 intermixed, so.....

8  
9 MR. MATHEWS: Uh-hum.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack?

12  
13 MR. REAKOFF: This problem keeps coming up  
14 wherever we go throughout the whole Western Interior, and  
15 with -- if it's determined that this Council had -- or the  
16 Board has authority to regulate nonsubsistence users, and put  
17 constraints on them, there's language in the state  
18 regulations, it's just not enforced. They enforce on volume  
19 of meat extracted from an animal. They don't enforce the  
20 salvage clause, and under the salvage clause, it means to  
21 transport and prepare or preserve the edible meat of a big  
22 game animal and waterfowl, so as to to save or prevent the  
23 edible meat from waste. They have the language. They refu-  
24 -- they don't enforce that clause. And that's what -- if  
25 it's determined that we have -- or the federal program has,  
26 it's already regulating nonsubsistence users, we can -- you  
27 know, the refuge people, they say, well, the meat is  
28 salvaged. They're not -- they're also not enforcing.  
29 They're enforcing to the state standard of making sure that  
30 the volume meat is taken off the animal, but not preser- --  
31 not preserved or prevented from waste, and that's what we're  
32 talking about. We're talking about rotten meat, and we don't  
33 like that. And that's what I would like to see the refuge  
34 personnel enforcing is this spoiled meat. We don't -- yes,  
35 volume of meat is part of the issue, the other part of the  
36 issue is the spoilage and the complete disregard and  
37 disrespect for that meat once it's taken off the animal.  
38 Thrown in a pile out in the sun and left to rot. That's what  
39 we're talking about. So volumes of meat is one issue,  
40 preservation is another.

41  
42 MR. HENRY: Yeah, we -- there was some meat  
43 up in Bettles, I don't know if they're still there or not.  
44 There was so much meat there, there was caribou meat, sheep  
45 meat, moose meat, hanging up there, the meat was so bad that  
46 even dogs wouldn't eat the meat. They were still in bags,  
47 plastic bags. And that was salvaged. Well, it was brought  
48 in off the field, but, you know, they brought it into that  
49 one place, and then they were hung there, and the people just  
50 left it there. I don't know -- I don't know what became of

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1 that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, if you remember our fall  
4 meeting up at Allakaket, we had David James at one of them,  
5 but again using his discretionary powers, or what we tried to  
6 put in place for the general hunt, registration hunt, that  
7 people that pick up these registration or permits to go out  
8 there up in the Koyukuk, that they read a brochure and sign a  
9 paper stating that they read this brochure on wanton waste.  
10 Do you remember that, Orlin (ph)? And that should be in  
11 place, but that's beyond our annual report. We're just  
12 limited to refuge issues at this time.

13

14 Do we want to add anything else on this wanton waste  
15 on our annual report? Again, it's just try to gather all the  
16 information we can and then set some evening workshops at our  
17 fall meeting. Is that okay with everyone? Okay.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Mr. Chair, then I'll  
20 modify the wording in there that -- from we are exploring to  
21 we are having a workshop on this important topic.....

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: .....at your next meeting.

26 Okay. Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Because we may want to  
29 incorporate what David James is trying to do, to have people  
30 sign off on what is wanton waste, that they saying that they  
31 read the rules and regulations and the brochure on how, you  
32 know, we want to stop this wanton waste. That should be  
33 incorporated in there somehow. And leave it at your  
34 discretion.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: I'll think of you on Monday  
37 morning.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pass the buck.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 MR. STICKMAN: I think the clause that Jack  
44 brought up should be put in there, too. I mean, that it  
45 needs to be investigated. I mean,.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, we will sign off on this  
48 anyway, you know.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: I'm losing. What Jack was

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1 bringing, which I did catch, which I thought was in here, but  
2 you're.....

3  
4 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman?

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Jack?

7  
8 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to see the Board,  
9 the Federal Board look at this salvage clause in the state  
10 regulation, and that's a real short wording that should be  
11 included.

12  
13 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I get.....

14  
15 MR. REAKOFF: That that's where we're coming  
16 from, is under this preservation aspect of this meat. We  
17 hear from U. S. Fish and Wildlife people, oh, the Innoko,  
18 they're bringing in the meat, but Clare (ph) Meyers in  
19 McGrath tells us that 50 percent of the meat that he handles  
20 coming in is rotten. Well, wait a minute, you know, that's  
21 -- so we want the Federal Board to look at this salvage part.  
22 The preservation, preserved for human consumption. And  
23 that's not what's happening.

24  
25 MR. COLLINS: We'll need to talk to somebody  
26 in law enforcement I think on that, because there's some  
27 problems in carrying through a case on that. I don't know  
28 why, whether that language is not clear enough or what, but  
29 you're right, they haven't pressed that. And.....

30  
31 MR. REAKOFF: They're not -- There's a lot of  
32 cases.....

33  
34 MR. COLLINS: .....it may be a loophole.

35  
36 MR. REAKOFF: .....where -- I've talked to  
37 enforcement. They've come to this camp, this meat's in  
38 garbage bags hanging on a meat pole in the sun. That's not  
39 taking prudence to preserve that meat. There are certain  
40 basic standards of meat care.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything else?

43  
44 MR. REAKOFF: No.

45  
46 MR. COLLINS: No. Nothing.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Summary?

49  
50 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, the summary is just --

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1 well, you can review it. It's just taking key points.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Oh, the.....

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: .....out of your minutes.

6 There's not any -- I mean, you can take the time to see if

7 I've captured it right, I mean, but the meat of the.....

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Sorry. The central topics  
12 you've already discussed. The summary is just to keep the  
13 readers of the report informed of what you've done. That's  
14 all it is.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: And all you wanted to do is  
17 just clarify the language that we will submit?

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Correct.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: So a motion would help the  
24 record be clear that you've approved what the discussion  
25 points.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Chair will entertain a  
28 motion to adopt the annual report as amended.

29

30 MR. REAKOFF: So move.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

33

34 MR. STICKMAN: I'll second.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion?

37

38 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Question.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: The question's been called.  
41 All those in favor or adopting the annual report to be  
42 submitted as amended, signify by saying aye?

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed?

47

48 (No opposing votes.)

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. We are now

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1 into Thursday's agenda. Coming up is the item 12, Federal  
2 Subsistence Fisheries Management update. Vince?

3  
4 MR. MATHEWS: Taylor will be covering that,  
5 and there is a tab in your book. I'm a little lost which tab  
6 it is, but I'll find it quick. I think it's tab -- it's the  
7 next tab, Tab T.

8  
9 MR. BRELSFORD: Vince, there's a map and a  
10 little packet of information. It's the same one that are in  
11 the Council member book, if people want to look along.

12  
13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Oh, it's in the book?

14  
15 MR. BRELSFORD: Yes, under Tab T.

16  
17 (Materials being distributed. General conversations)

18  
19 MR. BRELSFORD: While we're kind of getting  
20 settled, I'll mention for everybody that there are also  
21 copies of the Federal Register regulations. We're not going  
22 to read them this morning to Ida's great disappointment. She  
23 was hoping. But please do take copies and bring them hope to  
24 people in the communities, so that if you have questions, you  
25 have the documents to look it up in. So, again, we'll be  
26 actually working with the text that's found at Tab T. But  
27 this is additional reference material. I believe it was put  
28 on the table for each of the Council members, and there are  
29 copies in the back for the public, and for the people who may  
30 bring them home to their tribal councils and so on.

31  
32 So with your permission, Mr. Chair, we'll launch.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, the floor is yours,  
35 Taylor.

36  
37 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you. I'd like to start  
38 with kind of a time line, a few key days, and then quickly  
39 summarize some of the rest of the material provided to you,  
40 and then answer questions. But I think the calendar, kind of  
41 what's coming up, is probably the most important thing on  
42 your minds.

43  
44 As most of you know, the fisheries regulations were  
45 actually published in the Federal Register in January of  
46 1999. That means there are now regulations to govern federal  
47 subsistence fisheries. They're valid, they're complete, they  
48 have gone all the way through the process of becoming legally  
49 binding regulations. These are the same ones that a year  
50 from now will go into effect in the fishing seasons, in March

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1 of the year 2000.

2

3 As you know, there's still this last ditch effort to  
4 allow the State Legislature to make a change, and to head off  
5 the federal expansion so the technical date, the effective  
6 date of these regulations is actually October of '99.  
7 They're published, but they're not effective until October of  
8 '99. That allows the Legislature this whole spring session,  
9 legislative session to consider constitutional amendments or  
10 other ways to bring the State subsistence law back into  
11 compliance with ANILCA. So all of us are going to watch kind  
12 of closely what the State Legislature does, watch the  
13 newspapers and see if there is a bill. The Governor's plan,  
14 other plans that go before the State Legislature to resolve  
15 the subsistence divided management, the division between the  
16 two programs.

17

18 At this point, during the regional council meetings  
19 in February and March, we're providing a really simple update  
20 just to kind of time lines. We're not really going into the  
21 details of fishing seasons in the districts on the Yukon  
22 River. We'll have another opportunity out in the fall when  
23 we get a little closer to the effective date, to go through  
24 some of the more detail, so we're trying to sort of lay out  
25 the framework at this point in a more -- a more focused  
26 briefing.

27

28 Also at this time, in this item, from now until  
29 September, there's a fairly strong fisheries planning effort.  
30 Any of you that have been involved in the commercial  
31 fisheries or watched fisheries management at the Board of  
32 Fish, realize that this is an extremely complex management  
33 system. There's a lot of scientific data that has to be  
34 gathered each year to predict the runs of the following year.  
35 There's a lot of real time monitoring of runs as they come  
36 back in. All of that takes a pretty important staff out on  
37 the land, on the waters. It takes research people, it takes  
38 Board people. The staffing is not a simple matter. And so  
39 one of the big organizational issues or planning issues is to  
40 figure out the organizational chart and the staffing plan.

41

42 Equally important, the Federal Subsistence Program is  
43 not going to operate in a vacuum. We are going to have by  
44 the very nature of the fisheries resource issues, we will  
45 have to cooperate with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
46 in a fairly close and integrated way. Again, in-season  
47 management, monitoring how the runs come back in, it's  
48 critical. You can't guess and you can't miss. So it takes a  
49 lot of on-the-ground quick turn around decision making, and  
50 we can only do that by cooperating with the other managers in

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1 the non-federal waters, the Alaska Department of Fish and  
2 Game. So there's a kind of high level consultation going on  
3 between the Federal Subsistence Board, and the Alaska  
4 Department of Fish and Game, and the Board of Fish to talk  
5 about coordination, particularly focusing on this in-season  
6 management deal, how to make sure we have responsive quick  
7 turn-around for in-season management.

8  
9 Another issue that will be considered between now and  
10 September has to do with regional council structures, and in  
11 particular on the Yukon River, there are three regional  
12 councils that have jurisdiction at different sta- --  
13 different runs of the river, so the Yukon Delta -- the Yukon-  
14 Kuskokwim Regional Council works at the mouth of the river,  
15 you guys have kind of the middle reach of the Yukon River,  
16 and then the Eastern Interior Council has responsibilities up  
17 -- from Tanana and above. We need to find a good  
18 organizational mechanism for the three councils to work in  
19 concert, to have coordinated management, coordinated advice  
20 that looks at the whole watershed, looks at the whole river  
21 system. So we will be talking with some council members,  
22 with organizations like the Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's  
23 Association, other local and regional organizations, to  
24 figure out the best way of tying the regional councils  
25 together so that we get a consistent management effort across  
26 the whole Yukon River.

27  
28 I -- let me say that this planning effort is  
29 something that Ida and the others on the Staff Committee are  
30 meeting almost every week at this point to lay out a  
31 fisheries plan, and then to start assignments, gathering  
32 information, developing options and so on. It's a little  
33 early to go into the details of it, but I really want to  
34 emphasize that the planning is a big effort, and we will have  
35 to come back to you with more information at a couple of  
36 milestones to bring you into -- to bring you up to date on  
37 how the whole program will actually work on the ground.

38  
39 At the May Board meeting, Ron, when you go in on  
40 behalf of your Council, we will have some more information  
41 about this planning effort, probably the planning framework  
42 will be laid out, and we will be briefing the Regional  
43 Council Chairs at that time.

44  
45 The -- another major milestone comes in June, and  
46 this is when the money begins to flow. The legislation from  
47 the Congress laid out \$11 million for federal fisheries  
48 implementation, and it comes in two steps. In June of '99,  
49 if the -- the first \$1 million for planning purposes is  
50 available. If the State of Alaska has gone ahead on some way

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1 of reconciling, or of coming back into compliance with  
2 federal management, then the money would go to the Alaska  
3 Department of Fish and Game. If there has been no action by  
4 the Legislature, then that first \$1 million goes to the  
5 federal agencies for this planning effort that I mentioned.

6  
7 Fast forwarding to September 30th, that's the next  
8 trigger deadline regarding the funding. And again, if the  
9 State has gone ahead and done something to reconcile the  
10 programs, this \$10 million in September would go to the  
11 State. If it's still a deadlock in the State Legislature,  
12 then that \$10 million goes to the federal agencies, and that  
13 becomes the operating budget for the Federal Subsistence  
14 Fisheries Program in the next year, the year starting on  
15 October 1st.

16  
17 Very simply, on October 1st, the regs come into  
18 effect, but as you all know, there's no fishing seasons in  
19 October, November, December. The actual seasons that will be  
20 governed by the federal regs don't start until March of 2000.

21  
22 In the fall council meetings, we will have more  
23 detailed information about implementation of the fisheries  
24 program, the organizational chart, the staffing, the work  
25 with regional councils, the work with tribal organizations.

26  
27 In the winter council meetings, a year from now, we  
28 will be just weeks before the new seasons and the new federal  
29 fisheries implementation, the real concrete regulations, and  
30 the first seasons to come under federal management. What we  
31 would -- also available before you in the winter meetings a  
32 year from now would be proposals for new -- for changes in  
33 the fish regs for the year 2001. That's when we will start  
34 the proposal cycle on federal fisheries. It would be one  
35 year from now.

36  
37 So I think in terms of milestones, that's the main  
38 layout. Again, none of this happens until after October 1st  
39 of '99, and on the fishing grounds, the real changes take  
40 place in March, the new season, the spring fisheries  
41 beginning in March of 2000, not March a few weeks from now.

42  
43 What I'd like to do, if I could just keep going and  
44 try and hurry through this, is then come back to the text,  
45 this update on federal fisheries regulations. I think the  
46 implementation updates I've actually done in the calendar  
47 here.

48  
49 The overview of the final rule. Let me ask you your  
50 preference, Mr. Chairman. Do you want -- we have a very



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1 brief written summary here, and maybe that's enough for now,  
2 so unless you've got questions,.....

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

5  
6 MR. BRELSFORD: .....I was just going to pass  
7 by that.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Let's go ahead and go through  
10 this for now,.....

11  
12 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: .....and then we'll see what  
15 Council wishes.

16  
17 MR. BRELSFORD: Very well. We'll kind of  
18 take it up under questions.

19  
20 Under item C, the coordination with the State, I've  
21 already emphasized how fundamental that is to a successful  
22 fisheries program.

23  
24 Item D basically sort of ways that is -- are there  
25 any legal cases out there that could throw a wrench into the  
26 works here. You will hear some discussion in the State  
27 Legislature saying, we don't want to move off of -- we don't  
28 want to move ahead on reconciling with the federal law until  
29 all of the legal cases have been exhausted. And the primary  
30 case is this one referred to as the Legislative Council  
31 lawsuit. There are a few details provided here to say that  
32 the lawsuit was actually thrown out in the first hearing, and  
33 it's now on appeal. So you can make your own assessment of  
34 what the likelihood of a legislative reversal of the ANILCA  
35 requirements looks like. Basically it doesn't look very  
36 great, but some people in the Legislature are still really  
37 focused on this legal challenge as the first step before  
38 they're going to consider some statutory changes.

39  
40 And then in the final quest- -- the final section,  
41 section E, on what comes next, I've really already mentioned  
42 the planning.

43  
44 The one item I want to bring a little more attention  
45 to is actually the last sentence on the page. It says  
46 identify and implement cooperative management organizations  
47 for tribal and native organizations. And I want to say that  
48 this has been a matter of very strong policy guidance from  
49 Deborah Williams last fall, from Mitch Demientieff last fall,  
50 and on a continuing basis, and more recently from Marilyn

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1 Heiman, who is the new Special Assistant to the Secretary for  
2 Alaskan issues.

3  
4 AFN has -- and AITC, and Tanana Chiefs, and AVCP,  
5 many of the Alaska native organizations have been very active  
6 in the discussions in Washington about the federal fisheries  
7 issues, and the opportunity and the value of partnerships  
8 with tribal organizations has risen very high on the agenda  
9 at the Secretary's level and it's coming down in guidance to  
10 us to make sure that we've really made a -- that we will  
11 implement, we will go ahead, we will take action down this  
12 road.

13  
14 So some of the examples you guys may already be  
15 familiar with. The Federal Subsistence Board has funded  
16 cooperative agreements with Tanana Chiefs and with CATG in  
17 previous years for community-based subsistence harvest  
18 projects, household surveys. A lot like what Dave Anderson  
19 was talking about yesterday. We will continue to do some of  
20 that.

21  
22 Another area that we haven't funded yet, but it's  
23 very promising, and I think it will become part of the  
24 federal cooperative management program, is the idea of  
25 village involvement in counting towers or operating fish  
26 weirs where local people are involved in monitoring the  
27 spawning grounds returns, that sort of thing.

28  
29 So those -- it's a pretty concrete idea of  
30 cooperative agreements with the tribes, with the villages.  
31 It will be both on monitoring subsistence harvest levels, but  
32 also on monitoring the resource, on getting into the  
33 scientific side of fisheries management, and we'll --  
34 basically we'll have more details about it in the fall time,  
35 but I want to highlight that this is an aspect that the  
36 senior decisionmakers are really emphasizing is critically  
37 important. They don't expect no for an answer when the  
38 deadlines come in in the fall.

39  
40 So with that, let me stop, and we'll just maybe  
41 entertain questions, and.....

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

44  
45 MR. BRELSFORD: .....go as long as you need.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray?

48  
49 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, have they decided what  
50 our role will be in this matter? Are they going to use the

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1 regional councils as the board to do proposals? There was  
2 some talk about creating some other structure. Where is that  
3 at?

4  
5 MR. BRELSFORD: I think basically there was a  
6 consultation with all of the regional councils about whether  
7 they wanted to be directly involved in the fisheries or  
8 wanted separate fisheries council. I believe that question  
9 alone was set to rest. All of the councils wanted to be  
10 involved in fish and wildlife management. So I don't expect  
11 any change, like a new set of fisheries advisory councils,  
12 ten of them.

13  
14 On the question of whether a different organization  
15 would function on the Yukon River, something like YRDFA as,  
16 the buzz word was the 11th council, that there would be a  
17 separate and unique fisheries management council on the Yukon  
18 because of it goes across different regions. I would say  
19 that's still an open question. There was divided opinion in  
20 the regions among the councils. The YRDFA board had  
21 differences of opinion about the matter, so it is -- we  
22 really need to learn a lot more about the best approach on  
23 the Yukon River.

24  
25 One -- I think just very quickly, the options on the  
26 Yukon would be to leave the three councils alone, and have  
27 joint meetings a little bit like you guys were doing  
28 yesterday with Y-K with Harry Wilde. When a proposal comes  
29 up, you coordinate with your neighbors on a case-by-case  
30 basis. That would be kind of the status quo model.

31  
32 Another model might be to have something like a super  
33 council where some members from each of the three councils  
34 meet separately together to review fish proposals, and to try  
35 and come up with common ground.

36  
37 And a third options was this idea of a separate -- an  
38 11th council, an organization that already has roots and  
39 foundations in the villages along the Yukon River, and they  
40 would operate separately as a new council to address the fish  
41 issues.

42  
43 But there's no conclusion on that yet. I think we  
44 still have a lot to learn about the wisdom of one approach  
45 versus the other. And we expect to do some interviewing, as  
46 I mentioned, through the summer with some of the folks  
47 involved in Division of Boards at ADF&G, fisheries  
48 biologists, area biologists, the council members, some of the  
49 tribal organizations up and down the Yukon to kind of gather  
50 more information on this before we make a decision about it.

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1 MR. COLLINS: Who will make the decision?  
2 Will it be a Federal Board decision then, or is the --  
3 somebody else making the decision.....

4  
5 MR. BRELSFORD: It is a decision.....

6  
7 MR. COLLINS: .....about whether it's.....

8  
9 MR. BRELSFORD: It's actually the regional  
10 council structure is in sub part B of the regulations, and  
11 actually only the Secretary of the Interior can amend those  
12 regulations. Certainly the Federal Board will make a  
13 recommendation in the end that will make -- will have a lot  
14 of weight on the Secretary, but technically the final  
15 decision on that question rests with the Secretary of  
16 Interior and Agriculture.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this a new fisheries board  
19 that you're talking about?

20  
21 MR. COLLINS: Well, whether there would be  
22 one. It looks like they're going through the existing  
23 structure, or we'll be dealing with proposals as it stands  
24 right now,.....

25  
26 MR. BRELSFORD: Correct.

27  
28 MR. COLLINS: .....unless there's a change.  
29 That's what I was wondering.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack?

32  
33 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I was wondering  
34 if that ten or \$11 million is equitable to what the Division  
35 of Subsistence is spending on fisheries research and so  
36 forth, or has that been looked at or.....

37  
38 MR. BRELSFORD: Let me be sure I follow you.  
39 Is it equal to the.....

40  
41 MR. REAKOFF: I mean, is that an equitable  
42 amount? Is that enough money? Is that what the Subsistence  
43 Division is spending on fisheries, at Com Fish on that.....

44  
45 MR. BRELSFORD: Boy, I'm not.....

46  
47 MR. REAKOFF: Is that going to be enough  
48 money?

49  
50 MR. BRELSFORD: I don't know you guys'

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1 budget.

2

3 MR. ANDERSON: For the tape, this is Dave  
4 Anderson with Subsistence Division. Jack, our entire budget  
5 for our division is about a million and a half dollars  
6 statewide for game and fish. We don't specifically have  
7 subsistence -- actually most of the management of fisheries,  
8 both commercial and subsistence, comes through the Commercial  
9 Fisheries Division. They have -- I don't the figures on  
10 their budget. They're huge. They're one of the biggest  
11 divisions in the State. And most of that money would be  
12 commercial, directed at commercial fishing management, but  
13 there must have been some looking at what percent the State  
14 was currently spending on subsistence to come up with.....

15

16 MR. REAKOFF: Right.

17

18 MR. ANDERSON: .....the \$10 million. I.....

19

20 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.

21

22 MR. ANDERSON: It sounds like a lot of money  
23 to me.

24

25 MR. BRELSFORD: I think, Jack, there was a  
26 budget exercise, it was really rough cut, starting two years  
27 ago when there was the first Federal Register notice about  
28 fisheries, the potential for fisheries take over, and so they  
29 made some real rough estimates about new field biology staff,  
30 fisheries biologists in the field stations, law enforcement,  
31 board meetings, all of the things that go into a regulatory  
32 program, and that's where the figure came from. I don't  
33 think it was -- to my knowledge, it wasn't actually like  
34 close comparison with what ADF&G currently spends. I think  
35 it was more an effort to take a look at what the federal  
36 wildlife subsistence program spends now, and what new  
37 responsibilities would come, and then figure out personnel  
38 and other costs.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions from  
41 council members for Taylor? Did you want to go into the  
42 Federal Register at this time? No?

43

44 MR. BRELSFORD: I think you've heard that  
45 really.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah. Were you looking for  
48 any kind of direction on the formation of this new board,  
49 super board?

50

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1 MR. BRELSFORD: No, Mr. Chair, this is really  
2 an information briefing at this point. It's basically to  
3 sort of say what's coming, and to invite you to stay tuned.  
4 There will be some specific consultations on this regional  
5 council matter at a later time. There will be a lot more  
6 details before you in October as we get into the real  
7 business. But for now I think, you know, we're still a  
8 little bit on hold. We've got from now until October to  
9 watch what happens in the Legislature. So there's no action  
10 required on your part at this time.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: The reason I asked is because  
13 until this year on the Koyukuk River, just didn't give a damn  
14 about fish, because we never were involved in the commercial  
15 or any other aspect of it until this disaster up the Koyukuk  
16 River this year. That's why I wanted to know what the  
17 structure of the board would like. Like I said, until this  
18 year, I just didn't give a damn about this. But it's -- from  
19 where we stand now, it bears close watching and we want to be  
20 involved.

21  
22 Any more questions for Taylor? If not, thank you,  
23 Taylor.

24  
25 Point of information, I do have two packets that Ida  
26 brought to my attention. She will mail these out to each  
27 council member. Ida, could you cover it briefly? And I  
28 thank Ida very much for keeping us informed on all these  
29 group work sessions that she's been attending.

30  
31 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff  
32 Committee member.

33  
34 The document that the Chairman is holding up is the  
35 report by YRDFA on the Yukon River salmon management plan,  
36 and it's notes on what they're saying and discussing, and I  
37 thought it was important for you as council members to read  
38 through it at least once briefly so you'll have an  
39 understanding of the issues that will be brought to this  
40 Council's attention at some time or another.

41  
42 And the other document is a paper prepared for the  
43 leadership of AFN in Juneau last month, and it gives you a  
44 nice description of the history of ANILCA and how it relates  
45 to ANCSA. And it is the perspective of subsistence users,  
46 and that's why I thought it was important for you to be aware  
47 of it.

48  
49 And also, for your information, the Seward Peninsula  
50 Regional Council requested that all the federal regional

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1 councils meet together at least once prior to the fish  
2 implementation. And I believe Eastern Interior requested  
3 that they have their meeting in Fairbanks of somewhere in the  
4 region that would permit you access to have your meet- --  
5 hopefully to have your meeting there so they'd have two days  
6 of their meeting, and one day overlap with your meeting. And  
7 so that's just information for your consideration.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ida. I had asked  
10 or we.....

11  
12 MS. HILDEBRAND: Excuse me, I forgot one more  
13 item that I wanted to bring to your attention. There's a  
14 State Senate Bill Number 68 that was just issued last month.  
15 I don't know its status today, but basically it saying that  
16 the State will not cooperate with federal management, so you  
17 -- I think I have a copy in my bag, but if you haven't seen  
18 it, I'll include it in your packet.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Sixty?

21  
22 MS. HILDEBRAND: Six-eight.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

25  
26 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. And she's informed  
29 me that she will mail copies of all of these printouts to  
30 each council member. Again, I'd like to thank Ida and.....

31  
32 Did we have anything else on fisheries?

33  
34 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the remaining  
35 items that I see for you is correspondence under C which is a  
36 very brief thing. My recommendation would be to revisit the  
37 Koyukuk River at this time. Maybe after a break, but.....

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

40  
41 MR. MATHEWS: .....it might be a good time to  
42 start that conversation up and then go into the Unit 24  
43 seasons discussion. Kind of the way the agenda is here,  
44 except move correspondence to later, or dispense with it now.  
45 It's in the tabs. Usually I just brief the record on it and  
46 et cetera.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Let's take a brief  
49 break. Again, the restrooms are over at Fish and Game, and  
50 we have coffee in the back. A short break.

00172

1 (Off record - 9:39 a.m.)

2  
3 (On record - 9:59 a.m.)

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: It is now 10:00 o'clock. I'd  
6 to call -- reconvene the Western Interior Council meeting.

7  
8 On the -- instead of going directly into the Koyukuk  
9 co-moose management, I'd like to take care of some  
10 informational and take care of correspondence that we as  
11 council and staff have received. This won't take long, and  
12 then we'll be right into Koyukuk co-moose management. Vince?

13  
14 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, and public,  
15 I'd direct your attention to Tab U and Tab V. The way this  
16 is set up is U is correspondence that's been received, and  
17 I'll go over it real briefly, because we've touched on some  
18 of them, and Tab V is correspondence that you've sent out.

19  
20 Under Tab U, we had a letter, it was requested when  
21 we had a dialogue meeting between Carl Morgan, Harry Wilde  
22 and then the teams, the Interior team here and the Y-K team,  
23 Yukon-Kuskokwim team, that a letter be sent to the affected  
24 villages for Proposal 42, so this is a letter that was sent  
25 out to just show you that.

26  
27 And the other two letters we've already talked about,  
28 which were to Bruce Babbitt, echoing your request that he  
29 revisit the compensation question or request.

30  
31 Then the letter of January 21st is the -- to the  
32 Louden Traditional Council. This is -- was suggested by  
33 Staff, and it worked out well. It's just showing that we're  
34 trying to dialogue with the different councils when we meet  
35 in villages, to have elders present, and ask them to select  
36 an elder or that to open up the presentation, open up the  
37 meeting.

38  
39 The next letter is from -- and I'll just going unless  
40 there's questions. The next letter is from the Holy Cross  
41 Tribal Council. This is a response to your letter that you  
42 requested be sent to all the villages asking them to  
43 seriously look at collecting harvest data, subsistence  
44 harvest data. This letter, maybe when Jeff talks -- Jeff  
45 Denton talks about agency reports, he may want to address  
46 this letter, because I immediately faxed it to him on that.  
47 I don't -- I suppose we could do that under agency section.

48  
49 MR. DENTON: No problem, Vince.

50



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1 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I didn't see him.  
2 Sorry. So you did get a response on that canvassing.

3  
4 The next letter that came in is from Mitch  
5 Demientieff on December 4th on customary trade. You asked  
6 that a mailing be faxed in on the discussion of fisheries.  
7 And I'll just leave that letter for you to review. And the  
8 October 9th letter is -- I didn't realize I put it together  
9 that way, is the actual letter that the Chairman, Mitch  
10 Demientieff, is replying to.

11  
12 And somehow these got -- oh, no, okay. I see now.  
13 Okay. There's a letter here from Eastern Interior, a copy to  
14 you, concerning the individual c&ts, that proposal that we  
15 already took up yesterday, Proposal 25. It's a letter  
16 addressing when it was Proposal 38 last year for the  
17 individual c&t.

18  
19 And then the next one is from Wrangell-St. Elias,  
20 Subsistence Resource Commission, to keep you informed of the  
21 waterfowl hunting issue for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

22  
23 Okay. Any questions on correspondence received?

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: No.

26  
27 MR. MATHEWS: If not, I'll go into the  
28 letters that I drafted and were approved by the Chair. The  
29 first one is to Secretary Babbitt on the com- -- requesting  
30 revisiting compensation. We already talked about that.

31  
32 The next one is to -- the letter that Holy Cross  
33 responded to, and Jeff will talk more about the whole status  
34 of collecting harvest data in the GASH area, the Grayling,  
35 Anvik, Shageluk, and Holy Cross.

36  
37 The next letter I was going to talk to you about at  
38 the annual report, but it's here before you now, is you  
39 requested an expedited positive finding for implementing  
40 individual customary c&ts on Park Service lands, but also  
41 looking at that same process on other federal lands. Example  
42 being the Dalton Highway corridor was one discussion point.  
43 We've received no response on that. And I believe when  
44 Hollis presented Proposal 25, that the Park Service has not  
45 received a written response on the question of the authority  
46 for them to have individual c&ts. So we've kind of covered  
47 these topics, and I am going a little rapid on this, but  
48 we've covered quite a bit of this.

49  
50 The next series of letters, I took the liberty of

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1 writing thank you letters based on I think your direction to  
2 have thank you letters sent to the Alatna Tribal Council, the  
3 Allakaket School, the Allakaket Tribal Council, the Allakaket  
4 City Council, and with your concurrence, I would do the same  
5 for Galena.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, please.

8  
9 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And then we've already  
10 talked about the final letter. There's some duplication  
11 here, and I do apologize for that, but I think when the book  
12 was put together, some things got shuffled. But the last  
13 letter in your correspondence is the one that you wanted  
14 faxed concerning customary trade and the use of fish weirs  
15 and et cetera.

16  
17 And that's all the correspondence that I know of.  
18 Mr. Chairman, I think Randy Rogers wanted to speak.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah. Was anything -- any  
21 questions on the correspondence? No, I think they're pretty  
22 well covered. Randy?

23  
24 MR. ROGERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I just wanted  
25 to briefly mention, as I think Vince did yesterday, that the  
26 package doesn't include the letter that we sent to the  
27 Council involving the Koyukuk Moose Hunter Working Group.  
28 And I believe I have a copy of that if for any reason wants  
29 to look at that again. But just a minor point I wanted to  
30 make.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

33  
34 MR. MATHEWS: Randy and I are working on  
35 better correspondence, and that came in -- it came in under  
36 another. In the future I'll make sure that gets in there. I  
37 have a filing system that that got filed under a different  
38 avenue.

39  
40 MR. ROGERS: And I sent it to each council  
41 member, so you should have all got it anyhow.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: I believe I got it.

44  
45 MR. ROGERS: Okay. Thank you.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think I filed it under 13.

48  
49 (Laughter)

50

00175

1 MR. MATHEWS: And what we're going to do is  
2 when -- I didn't know that it had transpired, so anyways  
3 we're working that out, that when a copy comes in here, then  
4 I'll know that he's already sent you copies, or that I need  
5 to send copies. And usually when I end up sending copies,  
6 that's how I'm able to track it, so.....

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

9  
10 MR. MATHEWS: .....we've got that all greased  
11 now.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for your efforts.  
14 Any more questions on correspondence? Anything that we left  
15 off?

16  
17 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No.

18  
19 MR. MATHEWS: And it's still the wishes of  
20 this Council that we do it this way? That you receive copies  
21 at the meeting? Other councils basically when correspondence  
22 comes in, we send out copies immediately, and then summarize  
23 at the meeting. You've been comfortable with this process.  
24 If you'd like to keep it this way, that's fine. It's a lot  
25 of papers in some of the meetings though, but it's the  
26 wishes.....

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does the Council see any need  
29 to change?

30  
31 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No.

32  
33 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

36  
37 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just keep going. I think that  
40 we're used to it, and once we have a system,.....

41  
42 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Thank you. And that's  
43 it for that. It's an important section, but it's one that  
44 generally everything is covered before we get to it.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: If we're done with the  
47 correspondence and informational updates, I'd like to go back  
48 into the Koyukuk co-moose management issue. At this time I'd  
49 like Randy Rogers to take the table again. He drafted the  
50 resolution, and I know that Jack Reakoff drafted a

00176

1 resolution. Do you want to wait or do you want to.....

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: I'll wait.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. I'd like to ask Glenn  
6 if he wanted to be involved?

7

8 MR. ROGERS: Well, Glenn, I was just checking  
9 with him. He's got some information related to biological  
10 trends, hunting use, which he's got -- planned to be in his  
11 report for staff report, and he can do that, you know, in  
12 conjunction with this on the Koyukuk, or during his report,  
13 whatever you guys prefer.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: If it pertains to the Koyukuk  
16 problem, I'd like him to be involved.

17

18 MR. ROGERS: And I don't know what your  
19 preference is. Maybe you want to go through some of that  
20 information before we talk about the resolutions that both  
21 Jack has drafted, and then I have a rough draft for you to  
22 consider.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Glenn, this information, is it  
25 dealing directly with the Koyukuk problem?

26

27 MR. STOUT: Yes, Mr. Chairman, it deals with  
28 some of the preliminary information that I gave you, hand-  
29 outs to all of you, concerning the harvest in the controlled  
30 use area, age and other information that we've just recently  
31 got together, so I think it probably does.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

34

35 MR. ROGERS: Why don't you give them this.

36

37 (Whispered conversation)

38

39 MR. STOUT: The first thing that I wanted to  
40 present was the trend count surveys that Fish and Game in  
41 coordination with Fish and Wildlife Service conducted this  
42 year in Unit 21(D) and 24. In Unit 24, some of the summary  
43 information that we have here is the bull/cow ratio, calf/cow  
44 ratio and density for the trend count areas that we have.  
45 These trend count areas are all typically done in the high  
46 density areas, and we have repeated samples over the years  
47 for this information. Treat Island was basically stable from  
48 what it has been. Density is fairly high, sitting at about  
49 five and a half moose per square mile in there. Bull/cow  
50 ratio, these are times ten, the ratios are times ten, so that

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1 would be about 25 bulls per 100 cows. Calf/cow ratio is  
2 sitting at about 18 or 19 calves per 100 cows.

3  
4 Typically what we saw this year is calf/cow ratios  
5 were down in several of the areas, and we basically -- one of  
6 the ideas that's been floated around a lot is predation is an  
7 important factor in that decline in calf/cow ratio. And I'll  
8 get to a survey, a wolf survey, talk a little bit about that  
9 at the end, that we're -- we plan on looking at just that  
10 issue.

11  
12 For Game Management Unit 21(D), four trend count  
13 areas that we did were the Three-Day Slough, Pilot Mountain,  
14 Squirrel Creek, and Kaiyu (ph) Slough. And once again  
15 densities were either stable or higher than they had been in  
16 the past. Bull/cow ratio, Three-Day Slough is right at our  
17 management objective of 30 bulls per 100 cows. And the rest  
18 of them are also pretty high in those areas. But as you can  
19 see, some of these ratios, that you may see from past data  
20 that's been presented, are down, and as I explained  
21 yesterday, it's the reflection of growing cow populations in  
22 most cases.

23  
24 The next thing that I wanted to present was some  
25 summary information on the check station that we conduct at  
26 Ella's cabin, and the people that went through that area.  
27 This year we have the two registration hunts that are  
28 conducted in the controlled use area. RMB-32, which is the  
29 general hunt -- or the subsistence hunt, and A-30 which is  
30 the general hunt. We are seeing an increased number of  
31 residents, Alaska residents that are non-locals taking  
32 advantage of this hunt. That number's up in -- right here in  
33 our 139. And this is the hunt that's managed where the  
34 trophy value of the antler is destroyed for people that are  
35 hunting in that hunt. In all cases, in both 830 and A32 the  
36 number of non-local residents is increasing most  
37 significantly, and we are seeing some slight increases in the  
38 non-residents. Non-residents are not allowed to hunt during  
39 the subsistence season. This is -- the subsistence season  
40 has a September 1st opening day, the general registration  
41 hunt opens on the 5th.

42  
43 Total permits that were issued this year was the  
44 highest that we've had 626. Harvest was also the highest at  
45 345.

46  
47 Some perspective on where that harvest has gone.  
48 Over the last 11 years that we have, moose harvest is  
49 increasing, continues to increase, as well as the number  
50 hunters. And this is all hunters combined.

00178

1           Basically from about the -- I looked at if from the  
2 1993 value up to this years -- or 1998 is about 150 percent  
3 increase, right in there.

4  
5           Some of the other information that we've been  
6 collecting over time at the Ella's check station is moose  
7 antler width. We've been measuring several different aspects  
8 of the antler to palm width. The total antler width and  
9 base. And Tim Osborne, you're probably familiar with had  
10 collected a lot of information on Boone and Crockett scores  
11 on these animals and we hope to continue to be able to do  
12 that. In addition, we collect teeth and have those teeth  
13 aged and we can correlate the age of the animal with the size  
14 of the antler over time.

15  
16           What I have here kind of explains it. Each one of  
17 these points represents an individual animal, this is  
18 individual data point. And this plot diagram is of  
19 approximately 2,950 animals that have occurred since 1981  
20 through 1998. What I did is I plotted the black triangles  
21 you see is on -- is the last year that was plotted and just  
22 to show us where we sit with relation to the previous 17  
23 years of information. And basically the diagram we have  
24 here, haven't run the statistics on it yet but it has a real  
25 similar slope to the previous 17 years and once we get that  
26 information statistically analyzed, I think we'll see that  
27 population that's being harvested is really not much  
28 different than at this point in time than it has been in the  
29 previous 17 years.

30  
31           Some summary information with regard to that, those  
32 curves there, and a little bit of caution in the  
33 interpretation of this, we have to remember that this antler  
34 width does not necessarily represent the mean antler width of  
35 the population. It's just the mean antler width of the  
36 animals that are harvested. And we know we have hunter bias  
37 in this sample that we see here because for one, we have a 50  
38 inch restriction which is going to cause a higher number of  
39 bulls to be into that age class. But I think the  
40 relationship between the width of the antlers and the age, it  
41 would be a good comparison that we can extrapolate to the  
42 population as a whole.

43  
44           As you can see the total on the far left, the blue  
45 bar is the total of 18 years of information and the antler  
46 width is 48.98. The first nine years, 48 inch is the width  
47 -- average width. 1990 to 1998, which is the second half of  
48 that data, up slightly and I think that's probably a good  
49 chance that's a reflection of that 50 inch restriction. And  
50 then this past year, 1998, was 51.98. My gut feeling is that

00179

1 when we do a statistical analysis on that none of those  
2 differences will be significantly. It seems to be a real  
3 constant level.

4  
5 The age aspect of that, the same kind of summary  
6 statistics on that, that all 18 years there in the blue, the  
7 first nine in the yellow, red is the last nine and then just  
8 the '98 hunt there in the grey. And you can see as far as  
9 those first columns, they're virtually identical. Last years  
10 we did have a slightly higher but I'm not sure that that's  
11 going to be a significantly higher as well.

12  
13 As far as the interpretation of that, one thing that  
14 I really get out of it is the uniqueness of the Koyukuk  
15 population, the Lower Koyukuk population, in that, that  
16 population continues to maintain the harvest that it does.  
17 We have increasing harvest rates, hunter success rate. Over  
18 the period that I have plotted here, '87 to '98, average  
19 hunter success is about 57 percent and we continue to  
20 maintain that high success rate. I think looking at what we  
21 have as far as the increasing numbers, we're approaching that  
22 leveling off period. When we look at the Three-Day Slough  
23 period in particular, where that population has been high  
24 relatively recently over the last five to 10 years, it's  
25 obviously stabilized, quite possibly decreasing and the  
26 problem that we are seeing if we consider the fact that the  
27 number of hunters are, you know, basically sky-rocketing,  
28 then that's a concern that we really need to be getting a  
29 handle on. And hopefully, with some of these ideas that we  
30 have, as far as reduction in the number of permits we'll  
31 begin to answer that. I think talking with David James and  
32 some of the other people that have, you know, exceptional  
33 expertise on moose populations, that this is something we  
34 need to get a handle on now, we're approaching the maximum  
35 sustained yield on these populations and we need to get that  
36 leveled off.

37  
38 As far as other information, last spring's twining  
39 survey, they didn't get enough samples to have a good  
40 estimate of twining. Numbers in the population sightability  
41 was low and just couldn't find the animals. One thing that  
42 they did note in those surveys was number of black bears,  
43 particularly in the Three-Day Slough area. We've had a lot  
44 of input from local people about increasing numbers of wolves  
45 and, in particular, increasing pack size. And so, together,  
46 with Fish and Wildlife Service here at the Koyukuk Refuge as  
47 well as the Kanuti Refuge, we have -- we're basically on  
48 standby right now waiting for the snow to fall to where we  
49 can do a wolf track survey. That survey will run from about  
50 the mouth of the Koyukuk up to the eastern boundary of the

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1 Kanuti Refuge so it will include a great deal of the Koyukuk  
2 Drainage. Our intentions are to really get a good handle of  
3 population in that area.

4  
5 The most recent surveys that were done were in '93,  
6 using the same methodology in 21(D), estimated population was  
7 somewhere around 250 to 260 wolves in that area. And we'd  
8 like to come up with a similar estimate for the Koyukuk  
9 Drainage.

10  
11 I think that's pretty much all the information I had  
12 for you.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions?

15  
16 MR. REAKOFF: Are you calculating your  
17 yearling survival for this '98 season now with your trend  
18 count survey, what the yearling survival was at in concert  
19 with what the trend count yearling survivals have been for  
20 the past few years?

21  
22 MR. STOUT: We do have yearling bull  
23 information, not for -- we don't have it for the yearling  
24 cows but yearling bulls were down.

25  
26 MR. REAKOFF: Down from last year?

27  
28 MR. STOUT: Yeah.

29  
30 MR. REAKOFF: I was wondering what the -- if  
31 there's going to be any changes to the RM-832, the  
32 subsistence hunt, as to destruction of the trophy value? Is  
33 there going to be a change to degradate those horns further  
34 or retain the horns or is there some other way? I'm under  
35 the understanding now that the horns are sawed off the skull  
36 and given back to these hunters and that's not hard for a  
37 taxidermist to stick them back on there and I would -- I  
38 think that's why this Alaska resident are utilizing that  
39 subsistence hunt under the ospices of a subsistence hunt,  
40 and I would like to see further destruction of those, saw the  
41 points off the horns or yet keep the horns. There's got to  
42 be a degradation value to that, destruction value, as in the  
43 Northwest brown bear area, if a brown bear is taken under  
44 that permit, if it's going to leave the unit, the head and  
45 the feet are cut off and retained by the Department. So I  
46 would like to see some furtherance to that.

47  
48 MR. STOUT: That's an issue that I  
49 understand, historically has come up and it's kind of gone  
50 back and forth. And I -- my understanding of it is is that



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1 the way -- I wasn't up there at the check station this year,  
2 but like you, I understand that they've been cutting the  
3 antlers off below the bur, which would allow an individual,  
4 if he was inclined, to take it to a taxidermist and they  
5 could pretty easily, you know, make that look like a quality  
6 trophy on the wall.

7  
8 And if we're talking in that 50 to 60 inch class,  
9 it's probably a valuable trophy to an individual that they  
10 would like to hang on the wall. It may not make Boone and  
11 Crockett, but it probably doesn't really decrease their  
12 incentive. So the way I understand it is the Board of Game  
13 has authorized destruction of that antler and to the extent  
14 that a couple cuts through the blade with a chain saw, you  
15 know, would be appropriate for that. We're kind of going  
16 through the historical information to determine what exactly  
17 that level of understanding is with the Board of Game.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Henry.

20  
21 MR. DEACON: You said there's about over 200  
22 wolves in that area?

23  
24 MR. STOUT: That's for -- that was the  
25 estimate for the entire Game Management Unit 21(D).

26  
27 MR. DEACON: You know, a couple of years ago  
28 we asked about how much does those wolves take, moose-take  
29 kill, you know, do you consider that? Does that concern the  
30 Refuge people?

31  
32 MR. STOUT: That -- one of the ideas that  
33 we're looking at is getting a good handle on the ratio, the  
34 wolf to moose populations because we do have good information  
35 of moose populations and then that would help us determine  
36 what the ratios of wolves to moose would be.

37  
38 MR. DEACON: In our area, down in Grayling is  
39 about seven 82 within our village area. And nobody's keeping  
40 track of those and I think that's -- should be kept track of  
41 those.

42  
43 MR. STOUT: I agree. I think that would be  
44 real useful information to get.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Glenn Stout?

47  
48 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, with your -- you said  
49 there was 150 percent increase in hunters but the moose  
50 population is declining and you said that you -- there's

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1 something that has to be done. Are you guys going to be  
2 doing it through the change in regulation with the advisory  
3 councils or like the Middle Yukon and the Koyukuk River  
4 Advisory Council, are you going to be taking recommendations  
5 to change the regulations from them?

6  
7 MR. STOUT: Absolutely. Any recommendations  
8 would automatically go through the individual advisory  
9 councils and seek their input on that, and probably this is a  
10 good opportunity to have Randy up here, one of the avenues.  
11 Also that, you know, we were looking to explore is the  
12 Koyukuk Working Group, you know, to develop some of these  
13 strategies, you know, to make sure that we don't exceed that  
14 sustainable harvest.

15  
16 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. Because at the last  
17 Middle Yukon Advisory Council meeting, I think there was  
18 something mentioned about lowering the registrations from 250  
19 to 200. And also there was an idea kicked around about  
20 limiting the permits per boat that goes by the Ella's, like  
21 two.....

22  
23 MR. STOUT: Uh-huh.

24  
25 MR. STICKMAN: .....permits per boat.

26  
27 MR. STOUT: Yeah, in fact, David James, the  
28 reason he wasn't able to meet this meeting, he's preparing  
29 for the Board meeting at this point. And one of the items  
30 for discussion that he was going to take to the Board of  
31 Game, was a reduction, using our discretionary authority.

32  
33 And basically, the process that we like to do with  
34 the Board of Game is give them an update on where we stand  
35 with these discretionary authority decisions that we are  
36 going to make and he was going to go down and present to them  
37 a reduction in the number of permits available there at  
38 Ella's Cabin to 200. And so we were, you know, taking your  
39 advice on that.

40  
41 As far as the two permits per boat, we discussed that  
42 proposal and, of course, we didn't get a formal proposal. We  
43 don't know all the ins and outs of the idea. But that  
44 presented some difficulties as far as enforcement of that.  
45 For instance, what would qualify as a boat if somebody was  
46 pulling a rubber raft behind their boat going up the river,  
47 could they have two more hunts, you know, that go through our  
48 check station. Also the impact on the local communities, if  
49 a family wanted to go out hunting, a father would only be  
50 able to take one of his sons at a given time, you know,

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1 limiting permits. So there was some details in there and not  
2 having a formal proposal to really identify, so at this point  
3 we were just kind of waiting to see what developed on that.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

6

7 MR. JONES: Yeah, on that two permits.

8 That's to the non-resident hunters not the local. The local  
9 can have all the -- and the reason behind that, too, was  
10 salvage of the meat. What we recommend to Middle Yukon  
11 Advisory is to get the meat out of the field as quick as  
12 possible. If there's five hunters, permits, on a boat, a lot  
13 of times you'll see a boat coming by the Koyukuk, and there's  
14 five answers and five peoples and 200 gallons of gas and  
15 where's the meat? They don't have it. I mean you're talking  
16 about 2,500 pounds of meat there total or more, they're not  
17 hauling that.

18

19 MR. STOUT: Yeah, I guess I would probably  
20 just take the -- for us to be able to get an idea of how to  
21 address that, a formal proposal, and see where we needed to  
22 go on that.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

25

26 MR. REAKOFF: You know, to tighten up this  
27 language, what constitutes a boat, that's per powered boat  
28 unit.

29

30 MR. STOUT: Uh-huh.

31

32 MR. REAKOFF: And that's strictly that -- I  
33 agree with Benedict there, that's strictly for the RM-830  
34 hunt, because of the trophy hunt, a general trophy hunt and  
35 that's a limitation of two permits per -- two RM-830 permits  
36 per power unit boat.

37

38 MR. STOUT: Uh-huh.

39

40 MR. REAKOFF: And I think that that should be  
41 implemented this year as part of the discretionary authority,  
42 that's -- to help reduce. Because 230 permits, last year you  
43 exceeded your all time record on permits that attained use in  
44 the Lower Koyukuk. So I'm -- I feel uneasy with that cap  
45 myself. I feel that there could be in excess of 600 hunters  
46 again this year even with 230 permit cap. I feel that there  
47 has to be other measures, complete destruction of the horns  
48 on the RM-832, a limitation of two permits RM-830's per boat  
49 -- power boat unit. I think those are the kind of -- those  
50 are the two types of restraints that's going to get a handle

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1 on this moose take this coming year.

2

3 Another thing I caution is that all of these numbers  
4 that we looked at here, we have to remember that we've had  
5 easy winters and there's been exceptional calf production,  
6 yet the yearling moose rate falls. And with these easy  
7 winters, if we was ever to get a -- if we were to get a bad  
8 winter next year we'd be in a real bind. So I think -- I  
9 feel compelled to reiterate that this is an exceeding  
10 sustained yield and it's maximum sustained yield, and it's  
11 more restrictions than the 200 cap at one time need to be in  
12 place. And I feel that those types of restraints should be  
13 brought before the Board to be discussed at this meeting on  
14 Saturday or whenever that is.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anymore questions? Randy.

17

18 MR. ROGERS: Yeah, I just wanted to point out  
19 one other aspect of David James and the Department's  
20 considerations in this. And, you know, we recognize that  
21 there is a great deal of concern for this and really  
22 appreciate Jack's work in closely looking at some of the  
23 statistics on this. And that's why David James and Glenn  
24 came to the conclusion that we do need to put a cap on  
25 permits this year.

26

27 One of the things that they're very concerned about,  
28 though, also is making very strong cuts when we still do  
29 have, you know, high moose densities there and the potential  
30 political opposition that can be generated by that. And so  
31 again, you know, we've been looking at this situation. David  
32 James was before either Glenn or I were even hired. And you  
33 know, them leading to the conclusion that we needed to do a  
34 cooperative planning effort on this to get users involved so  
35 that those non-local users could look at the data the way you  
36 guys have and understand this situation and come to that same  
37 conclusion and then support that before the Board of Game  
38 have broad support so then we don't run into a situation with  
39 major political battle on our hands which could further  
40 hamper the Department.

41

42 So you know, somewhere we need to move along with  
43 this as quickly as we possibly can as Jack is saying. I  
44 certainly appreciate the approach that he's taken on that.  
45 It's unfortunate that politics plays into this at certain  
46 times, but you know, we agree that there is need to carefully  
47 evaluate this and make changes with this. David does intend  
48 to present some changes that we feel we can, you know, have  
49 the political support and the support of the Board at this  
50 point, and then we really think we need to look at further

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1 changes in the near future.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you very much. Anymore  
4 questions?

5

6 MR. JONES: Is it possible for non-residents  
7 and Alaska resident hunters to have this survey posted at  
8 Ella's Station so they understand the trend of the moose in  
9 that area?

10

11 MR. STOUT: Absolutely. I think that'd be  
12 real valuable.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for  
15 Glenn Stout, Randy? Jack.

16

17 MR. REAKOFF: I'd like to bring out that the  
18 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee made a proposal that won't  
19 be reviewed in this cycle that will be up for consideration  
20 by the Board at a later date. And that was to basically  
21 expand the controlled use are up to Hughes and implement  
22 another check station at Huslia and also reduce the season on  
23 this RM-830 hunt to trim the last five days of the season off  
24 of the -- then reduce it down to -- instead of a September  
25 25th closure to a September 20th closure. That won't be  
26 reviewed at this Board cycle. And that's a proposal by the  
27 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee, it's in the hopper right  
28 now.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for bringing that up  
31 again, Jack. I think that we all should keep track of that,  
32 and to tell the truth I lost track of it. Did you receive --  
33 did the Middle Yukon receive any correspondence on that  
34 regard?

35

36 MR. STICKMAN: None that I know of.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. I will just direct  
39 Koyukuk River to start working closer with the Middle Yukon  
40 River in these proposals.

41

42 MR. STICKMAN: The only other thing that I  
43 have to add, Mr. Chairman, was one thing that was kicked  
44 around during the moose co-management meeting that they had  
45 in Koyukuk was an idea of, let's see, how would I say it, to  
46 address the wanton waste issue was to -- once someone -- once  
47 a person kills a moose, the maximum days that they can have  
48 it out in the field was three days, and that was to kind of  
49 -- it was an issue for the wanton waste, you know, to -- I  
50 mean if you killed the moose and you took it out of the field

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1 within three days you would have very little waste at all.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there anymore?

4

5 MR. REAKOFF: And that was also a proposal  
6 that was in the hopper and we had five days on that, but  
7 that's strictly open for discussion. It's just another  
8 avenue to address this wanton -- or this salvage problem.

9

10 MR. ROGERS: Those are all issues we hope to  
11 address in this planning process if we can get going.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: We have two -- Benedict.

14

15 MR. JONES: Yeah, also I'd like to change the  
16 winter hunt date from February 10th to February 20th if  
17 possible. Because the last three or four years we had  
18 extreme cold weather.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there anything else? We do  
21 have two resolutions concerning this area, two that were  
22 drafted last night and this morning. And I don't know how to  
23 handle this, which one would come first? Randy Roberts  
24 drafted one this morning, we sat down for quite some time  
25 down at the lodge last night and Jack drafted one last night  
26 and this morning.

27

28 Do you want to wait on yours?

29

30 MR. REAKOFF: It doesn't matter to me.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. The reason we're back  
33 on this subject is that we wanted to address and reassess and  
34 see what we can do to put the Koyukuk Co-Management Team,  
35 working committee team together and get going on this issue.  
36 We've talked about it for quite some time now and if I  
37 understand that resolution right, Randy Rogers deals directly  
38 with the formation of this group, right?

39

40 MR. ROGERS: Yeah, that's my number 1 job  
41 priority right now.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. So if there are no  
44 objections from the Council, we'll go directly into Randy's  
45 resolution draft.

46

47 MR. ROGERS: And as Ron said, we.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just a minute? Question?

50

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1 MR. WARNER: Is the comment period over about  
2 the moose Koyukuk River?

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, no. We're going into it  
5 after this.

6  
7 MR. ROGERS: Ron and I discussed this last  
8 night and what we initially did was try and identify a couple  
9 things that we might do to change the way this planning  
10 process was proposed that led to the Middle Yukon and Koyukuk  
11 River Advisory Committee's not making the nominations last  
12 February.

13  
14 A couple of those things that we thought might help  
15 and there may be others, but first of all, we would want to  
16 clarify that this Koyukuk River moose hunter working group  
17 would be disbanded once the management plan or  
18 recommendations are completed.

19  
20 We would require that final recommendations on the  
21 plan to the Board of Game be made by the local advisory  
22 committees rather than the work group itself. Both of those  
23 things are designed to ensure that this working group itself  
24 doesn't undermine the authority of the advisory committees  
25 themselves.

26  
27 We could also make it clear that the goal of the  
28 process would remain open so that once the working group gets  
29 together then the goal could be set. Middle Yukon Advisory  
30 Committee didn't like the goal that was phrased when we sent  
31 that out, and so that's certainly something that could be  
32 changed. And then I'd also suggest that we include a  
33 provision that we just keep it open to the possibility of  
34 further changes in the planning process to meet the needs of  
35 those involved as we get into it. We may see some things  
36 that seem clear that need to be changed now and as it  
37 proceeded we would very likely run into others and we would  
38 be, you know, keep open to those changes.

39  
40 But based on that discussion with Ron to -- again, as  
41 I said yesterday, the action that this Council takes is very  
42 important to how Fish and Game proceeds with this particular  
43 issue. So you know, if the Council decided it was something  
44 it wanted to do, I tried to draft a few points that I thought  
45 I had heard the Council saying yesterday that could be put in  
46 the form of a resolution should the Council decide that's the  
47 direction you'd like to go. And I can read you, this is a  
48 rough draft, you know, again, this is totally up to you folks  
49 as what direction to take but I'll go through it.

50

00188

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: And for the Council's  
2 information, I glanced at it briefly and I would like to hear  
3 it in its entirety, it looked good.

4  
5 MR. ROGERS: Okay. It's a resolution of the  
6 Western Interior Subsistence Council in support of the ADF&G  
7 Moose Management Plan Project.

8  
9 Whereas; the Western Interior Subsistence Council is  
10 greatly concerned with the Koyukuk River moose populations  
11 and increasing hunting pressure;

12  
13 And whereas; the Western Interior Subsistence Council  
14 has gone on record as being in support of cooperative  
15 management planning efforts;

16  
17 And whereas; the ADF&G has proposed a cooperative  
18 management planning process for the Koyukuk River;

19  
20 And whereas; the Middle Yukon and Koyukuk River  
21 Advisory Committees have declined to nominate participants in  
22 the process thus far;

23  
24 And whereas; the ADF&G has agreed to revise the  
25 proposed process to help address the concerns of the advisory  
26 committees in the following ways;

27  
28 1. Clarify that the moose hunters working group  
29 would be disbanded once the management plan and/or  
30 recommendations are completed.

31  
32 2. Require that final recommendations on the plan to  
33 the Board of Game be made by the advisory committees rather  
34 than the work group.

35  
36 3. Leave the goal of the process open so that it can  
37 be established by the working group itself.

38  
39 4. Remain open to further changes in the planning  
40 process to meet the needs of those involved.

41  
42 And whereas; the ADF&G planning process is not  
43 intended to replace or interfere with efforts of the Koyukuk  
44 River area residents to establish a Koyukuk River Moose Co-  
45 Management Group;

46  
47 Now, therefore, be it resolved that, the Western  
48 Interior Subsistence Council encourages the ADF&G to move  
49 forward with the Koyukuk Moose Management Planning process as  
50 revised and encourages the Middle Yukon and Koyukuk River



00189

1 Advisory Committees to nominate representatives to the  
2 Working Group. The Western Interior Subsistence Council also  
3 requests that the status and progress of the Koyukuk River  
4 Moose Management Planning effort and any recommendations  
5 being developed be reported to the Council at their fall 1999  
6 meeting.

7  
8 And, of course, as it's proposed, the Council would  
9 have its own seat on this, too, to keep continually involved.

10  
11 Now, that's just a draft and you know, the number 1  
12 thing is that I want to make sure everyone understands is  
13 we're open to making these kinds of changes. So with that in  
14 mind, you know, we'd like to proceed to work with you however  
15 you guys would like.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: How does the Council feel  
18 about this resolution; how does it sound? What I'd like to  
19 do is just put the Western Interior letterhead on top of it.  
20 Because it's a resolution dealing with -- a resolution from  
21 our aspect, from our side.

22  
23 MR. ROGERS: What I could do, presuming that  
24 we'll meet at least briefly after lunch, I could type this up  
25 and if there's any of you folks who would like to work with  
26 me to change the wording however you'd like, we could do  
27 that. I can probably get it typed up at Glenn's office and  
28 have a typed version and then I can get that to Vince and  
29 then he can, you know, put it in the official letterhead  
30 format the way you guys want it to read.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that possible?

33  
34 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. I was just consulting  
35 because I understood the resolution -- I work for the Federal  
36 government, I have to see how this ducktails with the  
37 requirements of the Federal Board and that's what I was  
38 consulting with Pete on, and I don't see a conflict with the  
39 resolution there right now.

40  
41 That's all. I'm not trying to stop it or anything,  
42 but there's two regulatory boards and I have to see how this  
43 jives with that. My understanding is is that -- well, let's  
44 leave it at that, I need to consult with others. I don't see  
45 a problem at this point.

46  
47 MR. ROGERS: Yeah, I think as far as the  
48 State process, that we're open to all users and this is a  
49 board that's representative of users, and the input would be  
50 valuable to us and for me to take to David James and folks

00190

1 and say, hey, folks do want to do this. I think, you know,  
2 what you guys say would hopefully and particularly you who  
3 are also involved in the Koyukuk and Middle Yukon Advisory  
4 Committees, you know, might make a difference in how those  
5 committees approach it. Again, we need to have the  
6 involvement of those committees, too, before we can really  
7 fully launch into it. So this would be one step along the  
8 way and further discussion needs to take place with those  
9 committees. And that would be -- you know, I'd have to get  
10 together with Jim Marcott and see how we can figure that out.  
11

12 As far as the Federal process, the way it has been  
13 written up, and this resolution talks about ensuring that we  
14 continue to go through this Council and then this Council, in  
15 turn, goes through the Federal Board. I don't know if this  
16 is what Vince is talking about but we could easily insert  
17 something in there to make it more clear that proposals that  
18 come from this group will go through the Western Interior  
19 Subsistence Council and the Federal process, jointly with the  
20 State Board process.  
21

22 MR. MATHEWS: That's the concerns I have and  
23 I didn't want to stop the thing. I do have one other  
24 question if that's okay with the Chair?  
25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, yes.  
27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Darrell is on the co-chair of  
29 that co-management group of the four villages, I believe --  
30 or the villages. I don't know if you want to get his  
31 feelings if this resolution or not.  
32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time, no, because what  
34 we're doing is directing the villages concern.  
35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.  
37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: And I want this resolution  
39 with the Western Interior letterhead. Ida.  
40

41 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff  
42 Committee member. I'm just concerned about under the ADF&G  
43 changes process, that you're recommending the termination of  
44 the working group, and that's of concern to me because you're  
45 supposed to be open to the people of the region. So to  
46 recommend that the working group terminate is kind of  
47 contrary to that.  
48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Let's hear if I understand, go  
50 ahead.

00191

1 MR. ROBERTS: I think -- are we mixing the  
2 Koyukuk River Moose Co-Management group with the planning  
3 process because what.....

4  
5 MS. HILDEBRAND: Under Section 5(A), you said  
6 that ADF&G change process, that the working group will  
7 terminate when the plan is made.

8  
9 MR. ROBERTS: Yeah, and we're talking about  
10 this temporary planning group that the Fish and Game would  
11 have, and not relating that to the Koyukuk River Moose Co-  
12 Management group that Lori and Darrell are involved in. This  
13 has been a continuing source of confusion, the relationship  
14 between the two. So we're not recommending anything with  
15 regard to that group other than we want to make sure that  
16 once we get a planning process going that we carefully  
17 coordinate with them.

18  
19 What my hope would be is that while they're actually  
20 organizing their efforts and, you know, getting better  
21 established, we can work to immediately address some of these  
22 moose management things and hopefully make some progress.  
23 Then in a year or something like this, this particular Fish  
24 and Game group would go away, we would still have this  
25 Council and the local advisory committees and at that point  
26 perhaps the co-management group would be up and running and  
27 maybe want to take on a more active role itself.

28  
29 MS. HILDEBRAND: Just so it's clear on the  
30 record that it is not terminating the Koyukuk River Co-  
31 Management Group.

32  
33 MR. ROGERS: No.

34  
35 MS. HILDEBRAND: That's my main concern.

36  
37 MR. ROGERS: No.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: No. That was our intent from  
40 the beginning and I think that's where we mislead a lot of  
41 people. They thought that -- we mislead a lot of villages,  
42 they thought that we would just go step in and takeover with  
43 two representatives here and there and one from this -- but  
44 all it is is eliminating the planning process once we get the  
45 Koyukuk Moose Co-Management Team in place and in operation.

46  
47 MR. ROGERS: Yeah, thank you for that  
48 clarification.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh.

1 MR. ROGERS: And I think if we get this up  
2 and running the first thing we ought to do is come up with a  
3 new name for this planning group that Fish and Game has to  
4 clarify that and avoid the confusion.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. I wanted this planning  
7 group off and running right off the bat because Randy found  
8 some funding, and I think the language that was -- without  
9 that, terminating this working group, that that's the  
10 language that our advisory committees didn't like because we  
11 thought we'd just take over for everybody. All it is is just  
12 with the utilization of the funds that Randy found and get  
13 this co-op going.

14  
15 MR. STICKMAN: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, go ahead.

18  
19 MR. STICKMAN: I think one of the big reasons  
20 why the Middle Yukon Advisory Council didn't want to be a  
21 part of the working group was the fact that we did get a  
22 letter from the Fairbanks Advisory Council. In their letter  
23 they stated that they really wanted to be a part of this  
24 working group because we already had too many restrictions on  
25 the Koyukuk River. So that was the big reason for us saying,  
26 hey, we want to be a part of this.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: As I dated before, the way I  
29 see it then Randy can clarify this. This planning group and  
30 this -- draw up a charter if need be, and the Koyukuk -- the  
31 people would make or break the thing by changing, amending  
32 and everything, if there is such a charter. Is that right?

33  
34 MR. ROGERS: Yeah, that's correct. We would  
35 lay out some ground rules and how the group, itself, wants to  
36 operate. But you know, Mickey does raise a good point there.  
37 And it is the perspective of some of the folks from Fairbanks  
38 and other places that there's lots of moose down there and  
39 that we really don't need restrictions. And that is  
40 something that is going to, you know, come out in discussions  
41 of the group. And again, as I said yesterday, the folks that  
42 we have lined up really appear to be reasonable folks that  
43 are involved in the hunting. Some have come right out to me  
44 and said, you know, I've hunted there for 10 years and I've  
45 seen the crowds increasing, it's wrecking my hunting  
46 opportunities, too. So they're saying some of the same  
47 things as the locals.

48  
49 But you know, in all honesty, there's folks out there  
50 that would like to get rid of controlled use areas and do

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1 things like that. And they will be at the table to discuss  
2 this. You know, it's not our intent to undermine the  
3 existing management program, we want to make progress to  
4 conserve the moose resource for the benefit of the moose  
5 hunters. But I want to be very honest and open about the  
6 fact that there are those other points of view out there and  
7 that what we're hoping to do is bring those into the process  
8 and get a thorough understanding of this biological and  
9 hunting trend situation. Develop a common information base  
10 so that they, too, can come to the understanding and  
11 conclusion of the need for changes and then support that at  
12 the Board of Game. Otherwise you get the full committees and  
13 organizations that will testify on proposals before the Board  
14 of Game without having that understanding and cooperation  
15 developed first.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

18  
19 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if when  
20 -- hopefully the group does get together, if at the very  
21 beginning, they would decide that one of their main goals is  
22 to maintain a healthy moose population in count. Because I  
23 think some of them don't care if it gets overhunted because  
24 they'll go somewhere else or they'll stop hunting. But they  
25 want to see it hunted to the max while it's there. And maybe  
26 if you could establish up front, that's where the statistics  
27 that Jack brought in would be important. Maybe that would  
28 get past that.

29  
30 MR. ROGERS: Yes. I think that's an  
31 excellent suggestion.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: But that you're trying to  
34 maintain a healthy count.

35  
36 MR. ROGERS: Yes.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Without the sustainable yield,  
39 I don't think KRAC or Middle Yukon would even be involved. I  
40 think that's a main goal of this formation of this committee.

41  
42 MR. ROGERS: Right.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: And the Koyukuk Co-Moose  
45 management. Jack.

46  
47 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, if the way I  
48 understand the resolution, this planning group that the ADF&G  
49 would set up would be open for the Koyukuk River village  
50 input and wouldn't be closed door to that; that's the way

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1 your resolution is reading there?

2

3 MR. ROGERS: Oh, absolutely. We would hope  
4 to have involvement of them at the meetings themselves. And  
5 my idea, and again, we're going to have to look at the  
6 schedule of how things come together but whatever comes out  
7 of this process, you know, we will change it to specifically  
8 say recommendations come from the advisory committees. But  
9 what my intent would be, funding and time allowing, is to  
10 take this plan or recommendations, whatever comes out of it  
11 and do meetings in each and every village out there to let  
12 everybody know what's proposed and collect input. Bring all  
13 that input together to summarize it so it's available so that  
14 this Council would know what the overall input is, the  
15 advisory committees and ultimately the Board of Game and the  
16 Federal Subsistence Board.

17

18 And yes, in addition to trying to get into each  
19 village, and you know, hopefully making sure that we can do  
20 that. We would make opportunities for written comment and  
21 other ways to get everybody possible involved. Just lay the  
22 cards on the table as to, you know, what the issues are, what  
23 the points of view on those issues are and ultimately what  
24 the recommendations for best moose management are from this  
25 group composed of moose hunters themselves. And which is,  
26 you know, primarily, will be the local people.

27

28 I mean again, I stress that this is not intended to  
29 be a voting group, but we would have, if it came down to pure  
30 numbers there will be more local representatives than non-  
31 locals.

32

33 Again, what we hope to do is find those points where  
34 we can all agree what's needed to protect the moose resource  
35 and have common consensus recommendations. There will be  
36 some places where there will be disagreement on some of these  
37 other issues and maybe controlled use areas is an example.  
38 Where we may have to take information to the Board to say,  
39 here's what the people told us through this whole process,  
40 here's what the group itself identified as the areas of  
41 agreement and here's the disagreeing perspectives. And that  
42 information itself will be very valuable to the Board and the  
43 Subsistence Board so that they can make better decisions  
44 based on, you know, really having a fuller understanding of  
45 what the different perspectives are.

46

47 And the Board is actually very interested in doing  
48 something to encourage this process themselves right now.  
49 And Lori Quakenbush and Mike Fleegal, I know are particularly  
50 interested. They're waiting to hear what comes out of this

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1 group and based on that, will probably take some kind of an  
2 action. Whether that be an informal recommendation to us to  
3 proceed with it or maybe they'll make a resolution or letters  
4 to the advisory committee or us, but they're very interested  
5 and want to move forward with this also.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

8  
9 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, one other comment. I  
10 think one of the reasons this is critical is not just because  
11 of the Koyukuk, this is kind of the first time we're trying  
12 to use this cooperative format to do it. We need to use the  
13 same thing down in the Holy Cross area, the Innoko area  
14 there. And if we can't make it work here, then I don't --  
15 you know.....

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

18  
19 MR. COLLINS: .....it's going to be harder to  
20 get it started down there to solve things down there. So  
21 it's really important that this work.

22  
23 MR. ROGERS: That's absolutely correct.

24  
25 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more comments? Does the  
28 Council still feel comfortable if we put our letterhead on  
29 top of it and let them deal with it after we print it up?  
30 Yes. If you could do that during lunch we would appreciate  
31 it.

32  
33 MR. ROGERS: Okay.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: And using the letterhead, is  
36 that fine Vince?

37  
38 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, we can do that and then  
39 bring it back before you before you adjourn, correct?

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

42  
43 MR. MATHEWS: Just to make sure. Then have  
44 it all there and then get it on the fax or whatever needs to  
45 be done.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: We'd appreciate it.

48  
49 MR. ROGERS: Yeah, and again, if somebody  
50 would like to work with me to scrutinize the exact wording,

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1 I'd appreciate that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think from what I've seen it  
4 looks good and we can finalize it at the passing of it.

5

6 MR. ROGERS: What I would like to do, I  
7 think, along Vince's suggestion of adding another whereas in  
8 there to make it very clear that this is going to be  
9 involving the Federal Subsistence Board also, just to leave  
10 no doubts about that.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: I think if you want, Staff here  
13 can assist. We get along so well. We will bring it back to  
14 you for final approval but I think we'll capture all of the  
15 concerns that have been expressed here because everybody's  
16 eyes are wide open in the room right now. So we can do that  
17 and then get back to you immediately when it's done and then  
18 go forward.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd sure appreciate it. Thank  
21 you.

22

23 MR. COLLINS: A suggestion on the wording.  
24 Maybe where it submit proposals to the Board, it could  
25 mention both boards and say something as appropriate so that  
26 whatever proposals are appropriate would be submitted to both  
27 Boards at the same time.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Federal and State?

30

31 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything else for Glenn or  
34 Randy?

35

36 MR. ROGERS: I'd just like to remind you of  
37 the concept of perhaps making your own nomination. Now,  
38 presuming that we get going with this and that there is  
39 renewed interest from the advisory committee level, we would  
40 want to get this rolling as quickly as possible.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, and.....

43

44 MR. ROGERS: And you might even want to make  
45 more than one nomination. We have a continuing concern in  
46 making sure that we have adequate representation of the  
47 spectrum of villages along the river, both the Koyukuk and  
48 Middle Yukon. And it appears to be a little tight between  
49 the way it's set up right now. So I mean we'd like to span  
50 it all the way from Wiseman to at least, Nulato.



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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Vince and I went  
2 ahead and penned it into the agenda. We will deal with that  
3 shortly.

4  
5 MR. ROGERS: Okay.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have anything else for  
8 Randy or Glenn? If not, I sure appreciate your efforts and  
9 your presentation.

10  
11 MR. ROGERS: Thank you.

12  
13 MR. STOUT: Thank you.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, do you want to use that?

16  
17 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ladies and gentlemen we have  
20 another resolution that was drafted, real quickly, and this  
21 is being -- again, using the Western Interior letterhead.  
22 This was drafted by Jack, we all had a chance to glance at  
23 it, so I'll turn the mic over to Jack Reakoff.

24  
25 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, this is a  
26 resolution to the -- primarily targeting the Alaska State  
27 Game board who is meeting in Anchorage currently and to be  
28 read at their meeting.

29  
30 Whereas; the Western Interior Regional Council is  
31 charged with overseeing and counseling the Federal  
32 Subsistence Board on issues effecting subsistence resources  
33 and users;

34  
35 Whereas; the Western Interior Regional Council has  
36 taken considerable testimony from users of subsistence moose  
37 populations in the Koyukuk/Kuiui Flats in Innoko;

38  
39 Whereas; non-local hunters have increased  
40 dramatically in these areas up to 150 percent in the Koyukuk  
41 in the past 10 years;

42  
43 Whereas; the moose populations of the Koyukuk and  
44 Kuiui has begun a down trend, calf production has fallen and  
45 predation is high;

46  
47 Whereas; harvest in the Koyukuk is at 10 percent and  
48 over and six percent in the Kuiui;

49  
50 Whereas; the Koyukuk moose population has had low

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1 snow seasons and still tapers;

2

3 Be it resolved; the Western Interior Regional Council  
4 implores the Alaska Game Board to: and there's a variance of  
5 wording, support direct or encourage the ADF&G to use its  
6 discretionary authority for the 1999 regulatory year to  
7 reduce through a limitation of general hunt RM-830 permits at  
8 a level to provide for sustained yield.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions, comments.  
11 Again, this would have to be printed, and you want this faxed  
12 on to the State Board of Game?

13

14 MR. REAKOFF: Yes. Can you carry this to  
15 David James to be brought before the Game Board, Randy?

16

17 MR. ROGERS: Yes, I can. If by any chance I  
18 don't connect with him in Fairbanks I can get it faxed to him  
19 and make sure it's in his hands.

20

21 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. The feelings of this  
24 Council on this resolution. Does anyone have any feelings  
25 one way or the other or do you want to deal with it when it  
26 comes before us? Does anyone oppose of this resolution?

27

28 MR. COLLINS: I wonder, rather than have  
29 everything pending, it's already worded out, unless we need  
30 to change that, couldn't we just adopt it?

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: If that is the wishes of the  
33 Council, yes.

34

35 MR. STICKMAN: I make a motion to adopt the  
36 resolution.

37

38 MR. HENRY: Second.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: As presented by Jack Reakoff?

41

42 MR. STICKMAN: As presented by Jack Reakoff.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

45

46 MR. HENRY: Second.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been seconded by Sam  
49 Henry. Any further discussion. Again.....

50

00199

1 MR. STOUT: Question.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

4  
5 MR. STOUT: I just had one question just for  
6 clarification once this does go to David. You're talking  
7 about the reduction in the permits in total or per day?

8  
9 MR. REAKOFF: That's the RM-803, the general  
10 hunt permit.

11  
12 MR. STOUT: Right. And that would be -- or  
13 are we talking about that reduction in permits allowed per  
14 day or a reduction in the total number of permits?

15  
16 MR. REAKOFF: Well, it's a limitation of the  
17 RM-830 permits at a level to -- and that's your discretion,  
18 to provide for a sustained yield. We're giving you --  
19 they're giving you discretionary, and you have to calculate  
20 and figure out how many permits you're going to -- it's going  
21 to take to reduce through this 55 percent success ratio, how  
22 many permits it's going to take to obtain a sustained yield  
23 and not maximum sustained yield.

24  
25 MR. STOUT: Okay. From what I understand of  
26 that, we do, within the controlled use management, have  
27 discretionary authority to change that daily permit.

28  
29 MR. REAKOFF: Well.....

30  
31 MR. STOUT: Figure.

32  
33 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

34  
35 MR. STOUT: But I'm not sure that we do the  
36 total permit because I think that would go into one of these  
37 other tier level harvest management strategies and so I'm not  
38 sure that would be a discretionary authority.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: If I remember correctly, we  
41 directed David James to work on the total, to lower the  
42 total. And at that time, at our meeting at Allakaket, he  
43 said that he may have that power.

44  
45 MR. STOUT: Yeah, and I guess I'm -- my  
46 memory fails me on that. I was under the impression that  
47 that was the -- that 200 figure that we were talking about  
48 earlier, that was the number of permits that were allowed per  
49 day. And so what it was it was a ceiling per day that we  
50 would have a maximum of 200 permits issued. But if somebody

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1 were to come out, then a new hunter, we'd say would be able  
2 to come in at that point. And that's how we get to that 600  
3 level is because there are people that come out and the new  
4 hunters come in and that's why we have more of those.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: If I remember correctly, too,  
7 didn't we say that we have 200 live permits at any given  
8 time, never to exceed that?

9

10 MR. STOUT: Right. That's one of the things  
11 that David was going to the Board with.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that the goal you were  
14 working towards Jack?

15

16 MR. REAKOFF: Well, the main concern is the  
17 numbers of general hunters.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

20

21 MR. REAKOFF: Lumping the subsistence hunters  
22 with those in the cap is not my objective. The main is --  
23 the main concern is the Alaska State residents, the non-local  
24 hunters that are going up there. That's why this 200 cap, I  
25 don't -- I think that's sort of an arbitrary cap. I feel  
26 that you can calculate for this general hunt how to reduce  
27 those numbers of kill rates by your success rates and so  
28 forth. It's a numbers game and you can calculate how many --  
29 it might only be 100 or 50 of those general hunters, that's  
30 -- we're not telling you how many, you figure it out. And  
31 all we're telling you is we want you to come down from  
32 maximum sustained yield to sustained yield.

33

34 MR. STOUT: Okay. I think I understand where  
35 that's going now.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Ray.

38

39 MR. COLLINS: I think one mechanism would be  
40 to determine what that harvest level could be and once that's  
41 reached with those permits, there wouldn't be anymore issued.  
42 I mean whether it's how many a day or not, I mean if they  
43 come up with a number of what the sustained would be.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that's a good point.

46

47 MR. COLLINS: They're reporting every time  
48 they come out aren't they? So when you reach that harvest  
49 you could stop it. But that's for them to work out, yes.

50

00201

1 MR. REAKOFF: See, I'm not trying to tell you  
2 how you're going to do that.....

3  
4 MR. STOUT: Yeah.

5  
6 MR. REAKOFF: .....I'm just trying to get the  
7 Board to support you in reducing this from maximum sustained  
8 yield to sustained yield. I'm trying to get the Board to  
9 support you and to understand that there's very high harvest  
10 and it needs to be reduced and has to be done this year. We  
11 tried this permit hunt, that was sold as this was going to  
12 remedy that and it -- it dropped for one year and now we've  
13 exceeded all records. Something additional has to be done by  
14 -- the Board has to support you, the Department, in  
15 curtailing this general hunt. And you understand that it's  
16 this RM-830 hunt.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Fair enough. Is there  
19 anything else you want to say?

20  
21 MR. REAKOFF: No, that's it.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anymore questions for Jack.  
24 We do have a motion on the floor and a second to adopt the  
25 resolution presented by Jack Reakoff.

26  
27 MR. STICKMAN: Call for the question.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: The question's been called  
30 for. All is in favor of adopting the resolution introduced  
31 by Jack Reakoff signify by saying aye.

32  
33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

36  
37 (No opposing responses)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. We'd like to  
40 get this typed up and entered in the records.

41  
42 Okay, Vince, we're still on the Koyukuk?

43  
44 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, we're still on the  
45 Koyukuk, if there's other issues that need to be. I just  
46 need to compliment the Council on its diplomatic efforts  
47 here, it must be noted in the record, this is just  
48 phenomenal. And so anyways, no, I don't know if there's  
49 other comments from the public or Staff on the Koyukuk River  
50 situation or the Koyukuk planning process.

00202

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. The Chair will recognize  
2 Darrell Vent, Huslia, Co-Chair of the Koyukuk Co-Moose  
3 Management for the record, Vince.

4  
5 MR. VENT: Mr. Chairman, on these graphs you  
6 were showing, I had some questions of showing some of the  
7 density on the Tread Island compared to the moose. It showed  
8 bulls to 100 cows or 100 cows times 10 and the calves to 100  
9 cows times 10, and then it's showing density. Now, the area  
10 on this, I'm not too sure how they did that, what the area is  
11 compared to Batsa, Matthew Slough or.....

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pardon me for a second, are  
14 you going through this again later on or not?

15  
16 MR. STOUT: I hadn't intended to unless you  
17 would like me to.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right. We'll use this as  
20 a question period.

21  
22 MR. VENT: Yes, because this density, I don't  
23 know, that's kind of the way other density in other areas  
24 there, you're showing a high density of moose in that area.  
25 What -- how did you make that calculation compared to other  
26 areas?

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: If I remember, information --  
29 well, go ahead. It's just a.....

30  
31 MR. STOUT: Glenn Stout, ADF&G in Galena. As  
32 far as the techniques. The techniques are the same for any  
33 of these trend count areas. And the sample units that we  
34 have were developed a number of years ago. And typically in  
35 a trend count area there's three to five sample units in a  
36 trend count area, in the Treat Island, Batsa Slough, Matthew  
37 Slough areas, in particular. They're in high density --  
38 higher density areas -- or representative high density areas  
39 throughout the river corridor. And that technique does not  
40 change from trend count area to trend count area. There's  
41 probably four to five different sample units. Each one of  
42 those sample units is about 12 to 15 square miles in size.  
43 And then we come up with a mean estimate for that density and  
44 -- and for the Treat Island, that would be number of moose  
45 per square mile, which is about 5.5 or 5.6, in there.

46  
47 These numbers here, the bull cows, what I did here  
48 just to show it on the same graph, it's times 10, so that's  
49 -- that's actually 25, it's about 2.5 -- that's actually 25  
50 bulls per 100 cows.

00203

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, anything else?

2

3 MR. VENT: You're talking about 626 permits  
4 last year. Then another question came up where they were  
5 talking about that, there was 200 during a day. So this 626  
6 was the overall permits?

7

8 MR. STOUT: Yes.

9

10 MR. VENT: Was that his estimate compared to  
11 some of the hunters maybe coming from different areas, that  
12 was our concern. Because it just -- these permits sound like  
13 they're all coming from one area. I'm not too sure on how  
14 that was done?

15

16 MR. STOUT: That was the total number of  
17 permits that were checked at the Ella's check station and the  
18 Huslia check station. And I guess I should use that term  
19 loosely, it's -- we do have somebody up there that does issue  
20 permits out of Huslia and checks those permits when they do  
21 come back in. But at this time those are the only two areas  
22 that we will issue or check those people.

23

24 MR. VENTS: You mean by issuing permits and  
25 checking permits, you stop them and ask them about their  
26 permits; is that how it works?

27

28 MR. STOUT: Yeah, that's correct. We issue  
29 permits and then when they come back out, if they have  
30 harvested a moose, we'd take biological information like  
31 teeth, antler measurements. We collect the permits, on the  
32 permits they're required to fill in where they harvested the  
33 moose, the type of transportation method they used, how many  
34 days they hunted and a variety of other hunting information  
35 that we're interested in.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, for your information,  
38 Darrell, we have gone over this time and time again and every  
39 time we get somebody from Huslia, it's somebody knew and we  
40 have to go over it over and over again, so go ahead and keep  
41 going so that he understands and brings it back.

42

43 MR. VENT: One more question on that was the  
44 special use permits. Was that included on this -- like the  
45 people flying in from -- like the areas into the tributaries,  
46 was that included?

47

48 MR. STOUT: Yeah. The guides have been real  
49 cooperative. Virgil Umphenhour's been real cooperative with  
50 making sure his clients are checking in and he provides us

00204

1 all the information. He goes ahead and he's been sending us  
2 all the tooth when checking back out so he's been real  
3 helpful with that.

4  
5 MR. VENT: Okay, now there was mention of  
6 moose count, not moose count, but hunters count. There's  
7 more check stations? If that would be possible, you know, I  
8 would like to see that in our area because we are getting  
9 into more and more hunters coming through. Our concerns are  
10 people complaining to me and then I have to come in there and  
11 complain to you so you got to bear with me because I have to  
12 put it to you if they put it to me.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. If you remember, Jack,  
15 just recently we did discuss this, and we also -- we also are  
16 in the process of trying to divide Unit 24 in three  
17 subsections and adding another check station possibly up  
18 around -- between Hughes and Huslia someplace. That is being  
19 considered and like I said, our proposals don't come before  
20 the Board of Game until March 2000, next year.

21  
22 MR. VENT: Uh-huh.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: But it is being considered and  
25 we should start redrafting some stuff on this -- or KRAC.  
26 But it is being considered.

27  
28 MR. VENT: One thing I have on these graphs  
29 here that they presented, was total kill estimates compared  
30 -- it didn't show what the population compared to the total  
31 killed, you know, it was increasing hunters but it didn't  
32 show the increasing hunters but it showed the kill ratio as  
33 going lower. The success rates of killing a moose compared  
34 to the people coming in.

35  
36 In 1997 it showed it was over 57 percent, 1998 it  
37 showed it was about 54, what -- I wanted to make that clear  
38 that this population that came in -- there was a higher  
39 population of people coming in to kill but it didn't show how  
40 much moose were killed compared to that -- last year -- 1997,  
41 there less moose killed than 1998, and on this graph it shows  
42 that it is a different view.

43  
44 MR. STOUT: Yeah, I believe this is the graph  
45 we're looking at and this reflects the hunter success rate.  
46 And the yellow line that I have in here is the average since  
47 10987, the average success rate and the 1998 success rate was  
48 about 55, 56, slightly before the average. And I think at  
49 this point -- I haven't run the statistics to see if the  
50 confidence interval would match up with that but I'm not sure



00205

1 that it would be a significant decline.

2

3 In relation to the harvest that I'm talking about,  
4 the harvest, I think the point I was trying to make that we  
5 were maintaining a fairly consistent, it was a fairly  
6 consistent harvest success rate in relationship to the age  
7 and antler width of the animals. Just supporting that, you  
8 know, we aren't reducing the number of overage large bulls  
9 that were out there which is a question that had come up in  
10 the past.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Glenn, when's your next KRAC  
13 meeting?

14

15 MR. STOUT: That date from the teleconference  
16 that we had, it was up to the Chair's call for a meeting date  
17 and it hadn't been set but it would be this fall.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's not coming this spring --  
20 okay.

21

22 MR. VENT: The reason I made that question  
23 was because it's not showing how much moose was killed last  
24 year versus this year or the year before but it's showing --  
25 the way they want us to look at this graph, it's showing how  
26 things are going good up there. That could sustain maybe  
27 more harvest but we're saying different in our area. We're  
28 saying it can sustain less harvest than it is actually doing  
29 right now.

30

31 MR. STOUT: Yeah, and that's certainly a  
32 failure on my part. It wasn't to try and depict that. We  
33 weren't increasing, in fact, the one graph that I showed the  
34 number of hunters, and I think it's in the packet, is  
35 increasing quite -- quite significantly. Let's see, this is  
36 a graph of the number of hunters and the number of moose  
37 being taken that I showed. And in fact, the population -- or  
38 the number of moose that is being harvested is increasing and  
39 the figure I gave of approximately 150 percent increase from  
40 the low in 1993 versus 1998 was that figure that I tried to  
41 represent.

42

43 MR. VENT: Now, one question that I was  
44 wondering about is he was talking about the 10 percent of --  
45 what was that, the people -- Jack, was it 10 percent of the  
46 people coming in and hunting or was that a regulation or  
47 something?

48

49 MR. REAKOFF: No, that's 10 percent of the  
50 moose that are there being harvested, cows and bulls by both

00206

1 subsistence and sport harvest.

2

3 MR. VENT: Okay, what's the regulation on  
4 that, anybody have an idea of what the regulation of how much  
5 there's supposed to be, the ratio for a kill or is it -- I  
6 heard it was supposed to be somewhere around five percent?

7

8 MR. STOUT: The information we have and Mike  
9 could probably help me with this, Mike or Orville, is  
10 somewhere between six and 10 percent. A population where  
11 you're harvesting cows out of, a point to shoot for would be  
12 about six percent. A population where you are harvesting  
13 just the bulls would be about 10 percent. Is that right?  
14 Right.

15

16 And one thing to remember on this data that we're  
17 presenting here in this harvest, is this is a harvest,  
18 comparing that to the population in a localized area. And  
19 the game management unit is typically managed for the larger  
20 herd area so that harvest is typically analyzed for the game  
21 management unit. Because we get our harvest information for  
22 a larger area and we have herd estimates based on that same  
23 larger area. So we have to make sure that analysis, that it  
24 is, but I -- I -- not to belate the message that Jack tried  
25 to make is, we are certainly at or exceeding that point and  
26 we do need to get the number of hunters that are going down  
27 there turned around.

28

29 MR. VENT: Now, another question I had was  
30 we're in a game management area that looks like Federal land,  
31 I'm not too sure -- State is managing our land that's under  
32 Federal land; is that correct?

33

34 MR. STOUT: There are a number of State  
35 regulations that are in effect, but there are certainly a  
36 number of Federal regulations that are different in the  
37 Federal land areas that apply.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Well, what was the question,  
42 Mr. Chair?

43

44 MR. VENT: The area around Huslia, it shows  
45 on the map that I just got recently for that fish management,  
46 it shows that our area around the Huslia area is Federally  
47 managed or.....

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Correct. It's part of the  
50 Refuge, correct.

00207

1 MR. VENT: Okay. And the State is managing  
2 our hunters -- the hunters going into that area; is that  
3 correct?

4  
5 MR. MATHEWS: The State has management over  
6 resident species. This process here manages the allocation  
7 or the subsistence harvest on Federal lands.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: And that's about it.

10  
11 MR. MATHEWS: What?

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: And that's about it.

14  
15 MR. MATHEWS: That's about it. This Council  
16 is expanding that envelope into other areas but generally the  
17 program so far has been managing subsistence uses and if need  
18 by, but I'm not indicating this situation is there, we can  
19 close areas. But there's no indication, a need of any type  
20 of closure or restriction on other uses. And I think you  
21 were present here, that's the question that this Council is  
22 asking in their annual report is, what authority does the  
23 Board have to restrict non-subsistence uses? That's opening  
24 up that whole question there. Now, if your question was on  
25 different seasons and that I would need to pull out the book  
26 and deal with that.

27  
28 That's why this is -- when I said, the compliment to  
29 the Council, this highly diplomatic. We're mixing two large  
30 governments together here with two fairly extensive  
31 regulatory processes in this room here, trying to blend those  
32 together and we're doing quite well.

33  
34 So if I could give them a raise I would.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Per diem compensation.

37  
38 MR. VENT: That's something I need to know,  
39 thank you.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Darrell, and I  
42 appreciate your concerns and I know that you're new and I  
43 recognize a boy from Kaltag, I wish you'd keep continuing to  
44 come to these meetings. Because like I said, we've had too  
45 many turnovers too many times.

46  
47 At this time the Chair would like to recognize  
48 Orville Huntington.

49  
50 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: I was going to try to

00208

1 answer some of Sonny's questions but it seemed like Glenn  
2 tried to answer them for me. He tried to interpret some of  
3 my data for me that I collected, so what I'll do is I'll try  
4 to clarify what happened around Treat Island. What was  
5 Sonny's question now?

6  
7 MR. REAKOFF: Density.

8  
9 MR. VENT: Density, yes.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Density.

12  
13 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: If you could just bear  
14 with me a second, I've got too many overheads, I've been  
15 waiting so long.

16  
17 He was referring to historical, I believe, this is  
18 what I show -- the three identical areas, we could see -- the  
19 bulls are down -- I don't -- what we'd say, it was due to  
20 cows, cows were the same so that wasn't the reason bull/cow  
21 ratio went down. There's a lot of bulls missing, from 150 to  
22 -- I don't have the table in front of me but it's about -- it  
23 looks at about 80.

24  
25 The distribution of moose on the lower end of Treat  
26 Island was very low this year for bulls. I did that survey  
27 and it's about the lowest I've seen it at a long time. It's  
28 a lot easier to interpret data when you actually do the study  
29 yourself.

30  
31 MR. STOUT: I know.

32  
33 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: And that is why I wanted  
34 to answer his question when he was up here. Well, you can  
35 look for yourself, you know, it's -- there's something going  
36 on there. And you know, I gave this out to you guys up in  
37 Allakaket, too, I think, except it didn't have a nice.....

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: For my information, where is  
40 Treat Island?

41  
42 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: Treat Island is right  
43 north of Huslia, about -- it starts about 10 miles and then  
44 it runs all the way up to where the river hooks around Long  
45 Bend, and it's that whole island in there. And that's what  
46 our guide uses.

47  
48 Once you get below there, that's corporation land. A  
49 lot of corporation owns that land below there so there's no  
50 sport hunting below there. If you want I can show you an

00209

1 area where we also count, Huslia River Flats.

2

3 MR. VENT: Yeah.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Let me see, how can I state  
6 this -- go ahead.

7

8 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: Now, this an area that's  
9 owned by Koslodgina, it's also showing a decline but this was  
10 in 1997. And I think our regulations, eliminate land use --  
11 that corporation land went into 1996, so actually I don't  
12 know what it looks like now but I'm pretty sure this one is  
13 good and that's right west of Huslia. I was over there  
14 hunting on Saturday and there was a lot of moose in there.

15

16 So there's a lot of moose in here that's probably  
17 going to move over toward Treat Island anyway.

18

19 Now, back to Sonny's second question.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are you coming up under agency  
22 reports?

23

24 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, but this seemed  
25 like a good time to answer his question, I mean while he's  
26 here. I mean, I don't know, if you want me to wait, I can  
27 wait.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Glenn, you do have another  
30 presentation don't you?

31

32 MR. STOUT: No, I was finished. I presented  
33 what I had.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: If it's short, go ahead.

36

37 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: Well, all I had was that  
38 all we seen was down and I had a lot of complaints, there was  
39 trespassing but I'll wait until my presentation, I guess.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Orville. Anything  
42 else on Koyukuk moose management? The Chair will recognize  
43 Gilbert Huntington.

44

45 MR. G. HUNTINGTON: My name is Gilbert  
46 Huntington, I live here in Galena, and I'm a big game guide  
47 and I operate on the Koyukuk River. I have the permit for  
48 the lower river -- lower part of the Refuge, it's called  
49 2102, a commercial use permit.

50

00210

1 Now, I don't know -- I mentioned about it to your  
2 meeting but I don't know the scope of your work here. But I  
3 just want to put in some suggestions and hopefully it will  
4 come to pass in the future. And that maybe as part of the  
5 co-management arrangement, possibly, I mentioned that there  
6 should be a limit on the permits per boat in the Refuge.

7  
8 It's been my experience and that there are just too  
9 many permits going up there. I mean Darrell mentioned it and  
10 it's easily viewed at over 600 permits going up there and  
11 it's really not that many much more boats. Yes, there are a  
12 lot of boats but I think the impact is that there are, you  
13 know, six to eight permits per boat at times. And some of  
14 these boats are going back and forth, back and forth, and  
15 it's my view that there's substantial illegal guiding  
16 operations on the Koyukuk River. I mean I see it all around  
17 us, you know. And I would think that this group, somehow  
18 should push for a limit on the permits going up in that area.

19  
20 Yes, it might impact my business but I think it's  
21 better in the long run for the resource and for the general  
22 public that it happens that you look for some avenue to put a  
23 limit on it.

24  
25 Most people, local people, don't, you know, go out to  
26 hunt for more than two moose anyway. I mean the only people  
27 that are doing it are coming down from Fairbanks or Anchorage  
28 or points beyond, Kansas City, wherever. We have big boats  
29 parked here in Galena that do it. They fly up from God knows  
30 where and big parties, so I don't know how you guys work or  
31 what the opportunity is to do something like this. But I  
32 would suggest that you try.

33  
34 Another thing is I have a complaint about the way  
35 things work at Ella's Cabin. Yes, it is an effective tool  
36 for examining the harvest and having an impact on how we do  
37 things. But I don't think it's run properly. I think the  
38 Service -- the Fish and Wildlife Service should look to  
39 expanding that operation, having more of an impact. I come  
40 through there regularly. I would guess I stop by there,  
41 maybe six to eight times in the moose hunting season. Now,  
42 it's been my experience and I see it time and time again,  
43 that you see boats come out with maybe six to eight antlers  
44 on them. And the question is, do you have all your meat?  
45 Yeah, yeah, we have all our meat. Now, I have a boat that  
46 will carry as much or more load than anybody on that river,  
47 and I know how much I can carry and I look at their boat and  
48 I see what they can carry, and there's no way they can carry  
49 six moose. There's just no way, not with all the meat on the  
50 bone. Now, there's got to be some way to examine them and

00211

1 investigate the actual harvest that's going on there. It's  
2 not -- it's not being done.

3  
4 Yes, the State can say that they're doing it, but  
5 it's just a matter of questions, you know, that they ask.  
6 You know, you got all your meat, yeah, yeah, we got all our  
7 meat. It's just not being done. I think that this group  
8 should put forward to the Service that they be a part of that  
9 program and examine and investigate all the harvesting that  
10 goes on. I mean if they're coming out with antlers or  
11 subsistence harvest, see what's actually there. It's not  
12 being done.

13  
14 And you know, it's my experience that I feel like a  
15 lot of times that I am getting the blame because I'm the  
16 guide, and I'm taking out everything, you know. We take out  
17 everything but what -- because we're guides and we're  
18 bringing people from outside, you know, we see these people  
19 year-round, the people that complain about outside hunters,  
20 so you know, we're easy to pick on. But in my view, we're  
21 not the problem.

22  
23 Now, if it's -- if stuff like this is not done, it's  
24 just going to go worse and worse. And in my view there is  
25 going to be a point, soon, when there will be an -- start to  
26 be an over harvest on the Koyukuk River, especially in the  
27 lower part of the river because it's easier. Closer to  
28 Huslia. You notice, Darrell, mentioned it and Orville showed  
29 the actual bull to cow ratio, they're just getting killed.  
30 That's just a plain fact, they're getting killed because  
31 they're easier. The areas that are harder to access, they're  
32 not getting killed. Bull/cow ratios are higher.

33  
34 Now, I just came from up the Koyukuk River, I went  
35 400 miles on my snowmachine, I'm preparing for the bear  
36 hunting season. Now, in years past I would go up there and I  
37 would see 100, maybe 200 moose in that same area, and I spent  
38 three days up there and I seen five moose. That kind of  
39 worries me, you know. It's kind of -- I wonder what's going  
40 to happen now. The harvest of bear and wolves is way down  
41 from 10 years ago. Probably, you know, maybe Benedict and I  
42 might take a few up there and a few other guys that are  
43 taking wolves up there. And people just don't hunt bear up  
44 there no more, a few are taken. Most bears, I think are  
45 taken down closer to Koyukuk -- or Koyukuk people who take  
46 them. And few, you know, non-local moose hunters take bear  
47 up the Three-Day Slough area toward Dulbi and that. But  
48 that type of -- you know, you have a higher predator kill and  
49 you have a higher hunter kill, human hunting kill. And it's  
50 -- it's lots of bulls, and -- and I really -- I really

00212

1 believe it's going to go down, it's going to start going to  
2 go down and down and down. That's just the way it is.

3  
4 You see it in other areas. I used to spend a lot of  
5 my time up the Yuki River and it happened up there. Two  
6 years ago there was hardly any moose up there, you could fly  
7 over that country and you wouldn't even see a moose flying in  
8 the winter time, you know. You usually see everything. You  
9 don't even see tracks, and that's going to happen, you know,  
10 that's just the way it is. Because we're not being  
11 proactive, you know. And that's what we have to look to do.  
12 We have to look to slow things down a little bit.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Yes, this is exactly  
15 what we brought to Darrell's attention, that we can only  
16 manage the Federal land, you know. So we can only regulate  
17 in some Federal land. And we are attempting to work closer  
18 with the State. We have always tried but there's only so  
19 much we can get through to them.

20  
21 MR. G. HUNTINGTON: But the bulk of the  
22 harvest of wolves is on Federal land.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh.

25  
26 MR. G. HUNTINGTON: That's why I'm suggesting  
27 that your group, you know, push that Fish and Wildlife to do  
28 these sort of things, you know. To have a closer examination  
29 to find out what's really going on and to prosecute where  
30 possible, that people are -- are breaking the law, I know  
31 it's happening. It's got to be happening.

32  
33 That's all I have, thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: We're sure of that, too, and  
36 we know that. But even though they're documented it seems  
37 like we just still haven't gotten any convictions. And is  
38 there any questions -- go ahead, Jack.

39  
40 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I didn't know  
41 that Fish and Game wasn't -- you know, the meat on the bone  
42 regulation was so that the check station personnel could  
43 enumerate all the different quarters and ascertain whether  
44 those quarters were actually going through there. And if  
45 they're not doing that, that makes me very angry because  
46 that's what that was all about and we -- we were fighting for  
47 that one. And I think we should make a letter of directive  
48 to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife to assist, if they are  
49 assisting, that they shall investigate each moose that's  
50 going through there, to enumerate each moose meat content for



00213

1 quarters. And if you've seen that, I'm not real happy about  
2 that deal.

3  
4 MR. G. HUNTINGTON: Yes, I have. And I know  
5 it. I've seen it time and time again, you know. And it's  
6 just -- I don't blame the State personnel for not doing it, I  
7 can see they're there for, you know, working for 16 hour days  
8 and they don't want to be digging around in everybody's boat,  
9 you know, that's got to be.....

10  
11 MR. REAKOFF: I feel that that's the hunter's  
12 position, to unload that boat to present that meat. You go  
13 to the border crossing, they tear your car all apart, you  
14 have to put it all back. That's the hunter's position to  
15 unload that boat to the point to where he can look at that  
16 meat.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: So in effect, you're looking  
19 for additional funding plus enforcement officers up along the  
20 Ella's checkpoint?

21  
22 MR. G. HUNTINGTON: Well, I don't know about  
23 the additional funding. In my view, the Service has ample  
24 opportunity and resource with what they have that they could  
25 apply themselves to that situation at Ella's Cabin.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

28  
29 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I had a question. On the  
30 boats that are working out of Galena here, are those boats  
31 making numerous trips up the river? Do they come back here  
32 and then pick up a new bunch of hunters and go up again; is  
33 that what's happening?

34  
35 MR. G. HUNTINGTON: Oh, yes, yes.

36  
37 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. That's the same thing as  
38 the air taxi's before, that they were actually kind of the un  
39 -- they were unofficially guiding. They go out and provide  
40 camps and do all that, it sounds like the boats are doing the  
41 same kind of thing.

42  
43 MR. G. HUNTINGTON: Oh, yeah, they're doing  
44 the same thing I'm doing, only in a per boat, they're doing  
45 it.....

46  
47 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

48  
49 MR. REAKOFF: So they're charging.....

50

00214

1 MR. G. HUNTINGTON: .....on a larger scale.

2  
3 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

4  
5 MR. G. HUNTINGTON: You know, I come back  
6 and get maybe two clients per boat at the most, they come  
7 back and get six per boat, you know. So I don't know what  
8 they're doing with all the meat.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, do you see any way that  
11 we can address this issue, in any way right now?

12  
13 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think we need to get  
14 clear on the table who manages the cabin and what situation  
15 is there. I'm not saying that Gilbert is misportraying it,  
16 I'm just -- we need to get people that have worked the cabin  
17 up here to discuss that. And I think Randy wants to address  
18 that.....

19  
20 MR. STOUT: I can provide some history to  
21 that actually.

22  
23 MR. MATHEWS: I mean I think it's important  
24 to get that laid out here because many of you have not been  
25 to the cabin. It's obviously not in your area so.....

26  
27 MR. STOUT: Does the Chair want to hear a bit  
28 of history behind that, at Ella's Cabin?

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you want to?

31  
32 MR. REAKOFF: I'd like to know if that, if  
33 the meat enumeration is addressed?

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Gilbert.

36  
37 MR. STOUT: I can't speak to the recent meat  
38 enumeration because I was not at Ella's Cabin last summer --  
39 last fall except for a couple of brief trips there.

40  
41 About five years ago when Federal jurisdiction began,  
42 Fish and Wildlife Service made contact with Alaska Fish and  
43 Game and requested opportunity to contact hunters at Ella's  
44 Cabin. We were told to camp on the sandbar across the river.  
45 The situation improved markedly after a change of staff and  
46 after that point we've been cooperating very closely with  
47 Alaska Fish and Game, sharing staff at the mouth of the  
48 Nowitna and at times, sharing resources at Ella's Cabin.

49  
50 I do know that it gets very busy there and there may

00215

1 not be times when every single quarter can get checked in  
2 every single boat. If it is a situation of having more staff  
3 at Ella's Cabin, that's something that the Refuge certainly  
4 can provide by adding some assistance there if the State so  
5 requests. But the way it is worked now, Ella's Cabin is  
6 operated by the State and the mouth of the Nowitna is  
7 operated by the Fish and Wildlife Service. And we have, in  
8 the last four years, been cooperating very closely.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: And so what would it take to  
11 have the Refuge takeover the Ella's station?

12  
13 MR. STOUT: I don't know of that's  
14 appropriate at this point but it would certainly be  
15 appropriate to have assistance there if they so request it.  
16 There has been some discussion that sometimes hunters have  
17 all their quarters in the boat when they go past Ella's Cabin  
18 but when they arrive in Galena they don't have all the  
19 quarters. And it seems to me that some closer coordination  
20 between Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife Service and the  
21 law enforcement personnel is definitely appropriate at this  
22 point. And I don't know, procedure wise, how the Council  
23 would address that. But the State has been lacking in terms  
24 of their State enforcement person in the Galena area. The  
25 person transferred out in August. They had a temporary  
26 person here off and on. They had a few people come up by  
27 boat, and then the Fish and Wildlife Service had patrols by  
28 boat on the Koyukuk River as well.

29  
30 It's a big area, it's five million acres. I can say  
31 that there were, off and on, four or five people working law  
32 enforcement duties in that area. But coordinating it all  
33 together and then also operating on the Nowitna at the same  
34 time is very difficult and there aren't enough people to do  
35 an adequate job.

36  
37 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: So the quick fix would be to  
40 help the State for more personnel to be placed at Ella's  
41 Station?

42  
43 MR. STOUT: If the Council still requests  
44 that the Federal government give more attention to that, that  
45 may be appropriate?

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: But if they legally pass a  
48 station with all the quarters and come here empty, what good  
49 is that, you know?

50

00216

1 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, my question is to  
2 the State.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

5  
6 MR. REAKOFF: Is the State willing to be  
7 cooperative working with U.S. Fish and Wildlife for  
8 assistance in making sure this meat is getting through that  
9 check station? I know Tim was not real big time on  
10 cooperating but.....

11  
12 MR. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, I think the quick  
13 answer is yes, we're absolutely willing to. And I expect as  
14 Glenn gets a chance to work closer with Mike and these folks,  
15 that they'll do a better and better job. It's unfortunate  
16 for me to even hear that the situation was that bad a few  
17 years ago.

18  
19 In preparation for the possibility of doing planning  
20 on Koyukuk, I came down and spent a couple days at Ella's  
21 Cabin. Mainly, the purpose I was there was just to try to  
22 talk to some of the moose hunters and get a better feel for  
23 what's really going on there. In the days that I was there,  
24 I was impressed that, you know, first of all, you know, I  
25 think that Fish and Game is pretty fortunate that we've got a  
26 local person, Ted Jones, who runs that check station most of  
27 the time, and he was doing a very thorough job. He didn't  
28 miss a thing on a single permit issue and every -- every  
29 single boat that went through there, he carefully checked and  
30 I helped. And I know that it's the direction or the intent  
31 of Fish and Game to make sure that that happens. Now -- and  
32 I did -- I noticed a few times when there was some boats that  
33 had five and six racks on them and while I was there, there  
34 was a few times when people were actually taking loads of  
35 meat up to Galena, had already made contact with Northern Air  
36 Cargo to get some shipped out and were going back up the  
37 river. So some of these times when there's a lot of racks on  
38 the boat, there may be times when people are making  
39 legitimate efforts to get the meat out.

40  
41 I'd also say that there's certainly the possibility  
42 that things happen beyond there and hearing the story of what  
43 might be going on in Northern Air Cargo is disturbing in and  
44 of itself. I wasn't there when the real busy part of the  
45 season hit, and it certainly is conceivable when the boats  
46 jam up there, that they're not checked as thoroughly as they  
47 should be. And so I would fully expect that Glenn, in  
48 hearing this, he wasn't there this year, that he'd certainly  
49 want to do everything he can to cooperate with Fish and  
50 Wildlife Service, and if necessary, through our Department

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1 get more staffing down there to help out. This is a very  
2 legitimate concern.

3  
4 But the days I was there it was being run very well.

5  
6 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, there's somebody  
7 raising their hand back there.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

10  
11 MR. MIKE S: I just have one more comment. I  
12 was there briefly, and I talked to the biologist that was  
13 working at Ella's Cabin and she said everybody that she had  
14 checked had been coming through with all their meat. But she  
15 thought there was a lack of coordination between what was  
16 going on at Ella's Cabin and what was being unloaded in  
17 Galena. And that's where she felt there was a need for more  
18 attention, and I agree with that.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. The sounding board  
21 will recognize Tony Warner. It just seems like we're turning  
22 into a sounding board for the State.

23  
24 MR. WARNER: My name's Tony Warner, I live  
25 here in Galena. My first comment I want to make today is I  
26 would like the Board to consider opening up the subsistence  
27 season earlier, like the 20th of August when the moose are  
28 fat. That's what I got out for when I go out is to try to  
29 get a fat moose. If I can't get a bull by probably the 15th  
30 of December, then I'm going to wait for the cow season. So I  
31 would like them to consider that.

32  
33 The next thing I want to talk about is wanton waste.  
34 I worked at Warbelow's Air Service for probably about a month  
35 altogether from maybe July -- I mean August 15th to September  
36 15th. I was there at the beginning of the moose season and I  
37 watched the moose come in. Somewhere -- some people were  
38 taking care of all their meat, I usually counted the pieces  
39 that went out, it took like -- they were doing pretty good.  
40 But toward the middle of moose season when I was getting out  
41 of there, most of the meat that was coming in was wrapped in  
42 trash bags and they were pretty well -- pretty well rotted by  
43 the time they got there. I think my daughter -- my  
44 daughter's managing Warbelow's, I think she turned in several  
45 people, had Fish and Game go back there and look at their  
46 pallets of meat that was wasted.

47  
48 My son and I usually hunt across Galena here, and we  
49 came back one day after being over there, we came back one  
50 night after being over there all day, and not being able to

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1 get anything that day, and I seen a big bull down there in  
2 front of Roger Huntington's where they usually land, I seen --  
3 he counted eight big moose racks on that boat, they were  
4 hanging on the sides of the boat. I told my son, you know,  
5 if they got all the meat there, the way I cut it up, I told  
6 him, they got to have 72 pieces of meat from that boat. He  
7 said, you think that boat could haul that much meat, dad, I  
8 told him, yeah, it probably could. I told him, I'd stay  
9 pretty close to the bank if I was hauling that much meat in  
10 that boat though. There was not 72 pieces of meat in there,  
11 there wasn't even half of that. Yet those people got away  
12 with the moose racks, they weren't fined.

13  
14 I think, you know, why I believe in my own life is to  
15 teach people a lesson that do stuff like that, is to fine  
16 them by the piece. And I would go as far as -- because I  
17 want my moose to be around there for my son to use to get old  
18 using, I would like to fine those people even a \$1,000 a  
19 piece that they leave in the woods. I bet you right now, if  
20 you fine them a \$1,000 for every piece of meat that they  
21 leave in the woods, every piece of meat will be in their boat  
22 when they leave this place. It may not be in their boat when  
23 they get back to Fairbanks but I'll tell you what, if they're  
24 checked again there and they're made to pay \$1,000 each, I  
25 bet you all that meat will go from there to the next  
26 checkpoint, it will be there every time, every piece.

27  
28 Because I know, my own self, if I had to pay that  
29 much I would have every piece there. I usually make about  
30 nine or 10 pieces out of -- with my kids helping me I make  
31 the pieces smaller so they can carry some, too, but I usually  
32 make about nine or 10 pieces when you cut up a moose. And  
33 I've killed moose as far as a mile back in the woods, I  
34 killed moose like that one time when I think it was -- I  
35 think it was on the 18th of September, I was really having a  
36 hard time but I carried it out a mile. And Fish and Game  
37 people went in there and looked thinking that it was so far  
38 back that I left half of the moose there. But when they came  
39 back and they talked with me they said, man, did you kill  
40 that moose out on the end of Long Lake, and I said, yeah, it  
41 was about a mile back and I said, yep, the only thing that  
42 was there was a pile of guts and the skin. I said, I needed  
43 the meat and I ate it.

44  
45 But this is what I've seen so far, and if they're  
46 going to do anything about it -- about people going into  
47 Koyukuk River 200 permits would be about a pretty good start  
48 because you can always drop them there. If it was just up to  
49 me I would go with less because I want to see the moose  
50 sustained in this area for -- the first meeting I went to,

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1 Federal meeting was in 1982 when I came back to the Yukon, it  
2 was about proposals to protect Kuiui. At that meeting, Roy  
3 Frank and myself made 41 proposals to protect Kuiui for  
4 Galena, Koyukuk, Nulato and Kaltag. And for anybody that  
5 wanted to go in there to use a camera or whatever they wanted  
6 to use to -- or just go in there and enjoy seeing wildlife or  
7 whatever, we made 41 proposals to protect that. What I  
8 wanted to do and if I could done it was put a fence around it  
9 and keep everybody out and just keep it for the subsistence  
10 users but you know, you couldn't do that, you'd be in court  
11 in a moment's notice though.

12  
13 Anyway, we made proposals to protect that land. It's  
14 just these meetings, they scare me. I've been to meetings  
15 since that time, I've probably missed about -- Federal  
16 meetings in this area, I've probably missed about maybe three  
17 or four since that time. These meetings, they scare me, you  
18 know, we sit here and we talk about making proposals and  
19 protecting the land and then doing the right thing for the  
20 land and the people. At that time we made 41 proposals, I  
21 even thought I made friends with the people that I was  
22 talking with that day, but at the end of the day, I guess it  
23 was about 8:00 o'clock at night, these guys were leaving and  
24 they said, man, where are you from and they asked me, and I  
25 said I'm from right here. I said I lived away for awhile but  
26 I'm back. They said, we usually get this kind of input in  
27 Galena, we never get this kind of input at all in any other  
28 village. I said, well, you know, I like to make proposals,  
29 laws or whatever to protect Kuiui because that's where I was  
30 raised, that's where I was raised as a kid. At that time  
31 this guy said, you know, when we take this back to  
32 Washington, this proposal, this is what really scared me  
33 about these meetings, he said we could use out of them 41  
34 proposals, he said, they could -- maybe they could use 10 of  
35 them or 20, or they could use them all or they could use none  
36 at all. They could throw it in the waste paper basket or  
37 shred it.

38  
39 Man that really totalled me out. But I like to have  
40 my input. A lot of time I was there to sign the lawsuit for  
41 our fishing on the Yukon River, that year they shut us off.  
42 I fished all while we were shut off anyway. I got to eat, my  
43 kids got to eat. But I signed the lawsuit and that resulted  
44 in good things, you know, it resulted for the first time  
45 subsistence priority will take place with the State when  
46 resources are down, I think. And then next year, for the  
47 first time in the history of fishing at Shumigan, I think  
48 they limited them that next year. So it's had good -- had a  
49 good impact.

50

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1 I ate owl for Thanksgiving one time.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mr. Warner.

6 Anything else on Koyukuk River. Yes, Regine, we'll recognize  
7 you.

8

9 MS. ATTILA: My name is Regine Attla, I work  
10 for (indiscernible) Council, board member for  
11 (indiscernible). And I would just like to touch on one  
12 issue.

13

14 I know they were talking about guides this morning,  
15 I'll just touch on that briefly. I did see the RFP from --  
16 at our office from -- the Koyukuk Refuge Office, so, you  
17 know, the information is out there. But in a lot of village  
18 councils, there's just one tribal administrator that's trying  
19 to go through tons of paperwork that comes in on a mail -- on  
20 a mail run, so I really don't have any -- well, the council  
21 didn't really have any concerns about the guides that are in  
22 the Refuge.

23

24 I know some of them are local and I figure money  
25 that's going to local tribal members is money that circulates  
26 in the communities. But I do have a problem with the air  
27 transporters, I wish they would cut down on the air transport  
28 of hunters.

29

30 Because, you know, we not too sure but we kind of  
31 think that some of those moose that were floating down the  
32 river with the horns cut off is due to air transport. We  
33 just can't -- unless you pay for a couple of plane loads, you  
34 can't transport horns and meat and hunters and their gear.  
35 And that was an issue that came up at one of the meetings and  
36 we'd just like to see the refuges, you know, cut down on --  
37 on the air transport of hunters.

38

39 So that's all I have.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Regine. That was  
42 very well said. Anyone more?

43

44 MR. GOOD: Yes, sir.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Good, you're getting bad,  
47 it's after 12:00.

48

49 MR. GOOD: Yeah, right, it's not the first  
50 time.



00221

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mr. Good.

2

3 MR. GOOD: Okay, my name is Jim Good, Mr.  
4 Chairman and Council. I just want to talk a little about the  
5 situation on the -- you talked quite a bit here about the  
6 Koyukuk Refuge, and it's very important for the -- the law  
7 enforcement situation, it's very important to us. I have  
8 worked law enforcement up there two moose seasons. Last year  
9 I spent the entire moose season down on the Nowitna. I was  
10 the only officer from the Refuge that did do law enforcement  
11 last year. And I think it's rather obvious to everybody here  
12 that law enforcement, in these areas, we have 7.5 million  
13 acres we're responsible for with three refuge officers. And  
14 then when Greg Hamm was here, who transferred, he was a  
15 wildlife protection officer for the State, it left quite a  
16 gap. We're very shorthanded and I think it's probably quite  
17 apparent to everybody.

18

19 We have done, really, I think what we can as far as  
20 the law enforcement we've done. I'm very concerned when I  
21 hear the situations about the waste of meat. That has  
22 concerned us. And it's too bad Gene Williams, the manager,  
23 is not here from the Refuge. He has been talking, I know,  
24 extensively with a lot of people in the different villages.  
25 He's been talking with the transporters, he called a lot of  
26 them personally this last fall after this situation had been  
27 identified about the waste of meat. There had been  
28 information here about waste of meat in Galena. I have seen  
29 some of it. I have seen a pallet of meat, I'm not going to  
30 say out there, there was a dog feeding on it when I went out  
31 there one Saturday. I mean there was a big pile of moose  
32 meat and the dog was hauling away of chunk of it. I did talk  
33 to the person about that and said you've -- you've got to do  
34 something about that real quick, okay, or else you know I'll  
35 be back here myself. And they did take care of it.

36

37 We had two Federal agents working the Koyukuk last  
38 year, now, I'm just giving you some of this information, they  
39 were up there, they did have to leave. And then I do know  
40 that the State did have one of their wildlife protection  
41 officers in, he had a plane, he was doing what he could up on  
42 the Koyukuk. And they did have, I believe, another officer  
43 that was up there, and again, I was down on the Nowitna. I  
44 was doing law enforcement on the river, on the upper part of  
45 the river a little bit there -- or I'm sorry, the lower part  
46 of the river and then I worked the check station. We did try  
47 to check all the hunters that came out and we did try to  
48 check all the meat. Just for your information, to let you  
49 know, there at the check station on the Nowitna, we're very  
50 concerned about this. I know Gene Williams, the manager is

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1 trying to do as much as he can with Alaska Department of Fish  
2 and Game, with the villages and that, with some of the  
3 people, you know, to try to alleviate this problem with the  
4 waste of meat. It's a serious problem.

5  
6 We haven't talked too much with the State about, you  
7 know, the first time I had heard when Gilbert said his  
8 concern here, unless I've forgotten, you know, that there was  
9 concern there about the problem at Ella's Cabin. Maybe  
10 something can be worked out there. I feel since I've been  
11 here, I've been here three years, even when -- you know, Tim  
12 was the first person here, I went to college with Tim a whole  
13 bunch of years ago back at Humboldt State, and I know Tim --  
14 knew him, and he was very cooperative with me when I was  
15 there at the check station for just, you know, part of day  
16 when we went up the river and back. I know when Jim  
17 Woolington was here we had a terrific relationship, I feel,  
18 with him. And I want to assure you that we will try -- I  
19 don't know what can be worked out there, and I work quite a  
20 bit with the law enforcement part of the refuge, that's part  
21 of my job, and we want to try -- if we can improve on that  
22 and work with the State, and I'm sure we can, Glenn's here  
23 now, and I talked with Beth when she was up there, we've had  
24 excellent cooperation with them, so I think we can probably  
25 work something out there. We may have to hire some  
26 temporaries to help, you know, work at the cabin, and there  
27 may be other places that we can check.

28  
29 We hope in the future, that we, within the Fish and  
30 Wildlife Service can do more on the Koyukuk area. Because of  
31 all the hunters that come in there we're very concerned and  
32 we hear these -- we get information about these problems with  
33 illegal guiding and that. And we know some of it goes on.  
34 We've tried to find some of them, it hasn't worked out too  
35 well, it's rather difficult. But we are intending in the  
36 future to do more about that.

37  
38 And that's all I can really say about that.

39  
40 But the Fish and Wildlife Service is going to, in the  
41 future, try to work on that situation that we feel exists  
42 there from the information that we have gotten from a lot of  
43 the people, from the villages, from Huslia, and then from  
44 some of the people that are up there hunting, we want to try  
45 to take care of this in the future. And that might take a  
46 little while, but we hope we're going to do it.

47  
48 So you know, I just wanted to let you know, we've  
49 been trying to do what we can. I've worked up there, there's  
50 usually two of us that work together in the boats, we camp up

00223

1 there. We work law enforcement. And then we bring two other  
2 officers in, that's the way we do it during the moose season.  
3 And then we try to get someone down on the Nowitna. So we're  
4 spread pretty thin but we try to do as much as we can.

5  
6 I told Mr. Stickman, that we're going to try to do  
7 more if we can down on the Kuiui Flats area this coming moose  
8 season.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: How many of you work law  
11 enforcement during the moose season for the three refuges?

12  
13 MR. GOOD: If we have all three officers  
14 here, three of us do. Last year I was the only one that  
15 worked law enforcement out of three officers. One officer  
16 had transferred, there was a reason why the other officer  
17 couldn't be out working, so I was the only one this last  
18 year. Before there have been two and three of us that would --  
19 in 1996 and '97. This last year there was just me from the  
20 refuge.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: What would it take to have one  
23 law enforcement officer in each -- working each refuge? Even  
24 if they only take temporary hire, couldn't we do that? Could  
25 we pull that.....

26  
27 MR. GOOD: Well, you can't really, it's very  
28 difficult with our regulations to hire. You know, if you're  
29 talking about hiring temporary law enforcement people, we  
30 have to be very careful about that because there's always the  
31 potential for shootings and what not, and so you have to be  
32 very careful with liability. So we have certain regulations  
33 on getting enforcement people.

34  
35 Like we have gotten other people -- we have gotten  
36 other officers to come in and assist us during the hunting  
37 season, some for a little bit of training, and some they're  
38 interested in so they have come from other refuges here in  
39 Alaska to help us.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: And how much.....

42  
43 MR. GOOD: So.....

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: .....and how many law  
46 enforcement officers did you get help from from the State?

47  
48 MR. GOOD: Well, they just have the wildlife  
49 protection officer that's out of Galena so he's the only one  
50 that -- since I've been here we've never really asked him for

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1 assistance except for when Greg was here he would fly out  
2 because he was a pilot, that was job, and he was out there.  
3 And we've never, since I've been here -- I've been here since  
4 '96, I don't know -- maybe Mike knows if anybody had ever  
5 asked for other officers on the refuge.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: If the State is running the  
8 Ella's Cabin checkpoint, wouldn't it be appropriate for them  
9 to provide a law enforcement officer?

10  
11 MR. GOOD: Well, what they're doing primarily  
12 there is they're checking licenses and they're checking meat  
13 that comes through so I -- the people, since I've been here,  
14 and I think at a station like that they're just gathering  
15 biological information, making sure everybody has their  
16 permits.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: No law enforcement?

19  
20 MR. GOOD: Well, what happens there, I  
21 believe, is if there is a situation where there is a  
22 violation then I believe they call in their wildlife  
23 protection officer to handle that.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: But then that would be after  
26 the fact.

27  
28 MR. GOOD: Well, as soon as they could, yes.  
29 Or they could call us and we could zip down if we could on  
30 the boat if they could -- and our communications is tough out  
31 there, to get communications it's very difficult with radios  
32 and things. We could -- I could take information or one of  
33 the other officers, we could take information and then turn  
34 it over to the wildlife protection officer. We could do it  
35 that way, if we were notified. But they don't have a -- and  
36 I can't speak for the State, but they don't have -- they  
37 haven't had, since I've been here, I don't know if they ever  
38 have in the years they've had Ella's check station, have a  
39 person with law enforcement authority there. That, I'm not --  
40 I don't think they have.

41  
42 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chairman, the biologist in  
43 the State, we are trained and we do have the authority to  
44 enforce Fish and Game violations. And I just recently  
45 finished that course, and so when I'm at the check station I  
46 would have the ability to do that.

47  
48 Because of the information that we're trying to  
49 collect there and the shortage of manpower, I wouldn't, as a  
50 rule, go out and do any investigations. If we had violations

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1 in the field, I would contact Fish and Wildlife protection --  
2 State Fish and Wildlife protection officers in order to get  
3 involved in an investigation of that and assist them because  
4 that's their specialty, in any way I could.

5  
6 As far as this whole discussion, you know, in  
7 cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the way  
8 the operation of the station would be conducted, it's very  
9 clear that all those quarters are supposed to be counted when  
10 they come through there and we'll follow through with that  
11 while I'm responsible for that check station. And working  
12 with the Fish and Wildlife Service will be a priority of ours  
13 and certainly any of the guys that wanted to stay there at  
14 Ella's check station are welcome to do that.

15  
16 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

19  
20 MR. GOOD: Let me just say one thing, you had  
21 asked about what you could do. You can -- however you --  
22 with your process, identify as you see this as a situation, a  
23 problem or whatever you want to call it, and I don't know  
24 what your process is for getting that to us, to the Refuge or  
25 to our regional office, whatever, and then say, you know, we  
26 feel some action needs to be taken on this.

27  
28 It's quite clear, based on all the information that's  
29 coming in now, because some how to comply with all of this,  
30 that's what they need. Whether that would be us bringing in  
31 more officers, I mean we could, if possible, in September in  
32 the moose season, I suppose we could see if we could get some  
33 officers to help us, say, from the Lower 48. Some of them  
34 would be more than happy to do it. It's just, you know,  
35 there's costs involved. But if there is -- but the folks,  
36 say in the RO, write -- if you can write to Gene Williams,  
37 the refuge manager, in this case Koyukuk/Nowitna, let them  
38 know, and include as much information as you can to what  
39 people have said, what they've seen, what they've observed  
40 and all that, I mean that's very important.

41  
42 There is concern within Fish and Wildlife Service  
43 about this. And I know Gene would talk to you, you know,  
44 with the waste of meat here, that's a different subject,  
45 that's sickening, it makes me sick. I don't like it.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack Reakoff.

48  
49 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I think it would  
50 behoove the ADF&G and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife to

00226

1 investigate using a coordinated effort to investigate meat  
2 that is transported through Galena. I feel that meat that  
3 goes through the Ella's check station should be -- a request  
4 should be made of the hunters as to the destination of that  
5 meat. Is that meat going by boat to Fairbanks or is that  
6 meat going to be shipped out of Galena. Then those should be  
7 referenced to the enforcement personnel so that those boats  
8 that are going into Galena can be then be checked in the  
9 bottle back here.

10  
11 When I had caribou, I don't chase them all over the  
12 mountains, I wait for them to come through the pass. When  
13 these hunters are coming through Galena, there should be a --  
14 you can get a rookie game warden that could probably write a  
15 whole ticket book full of wanton waste violations right here.  
16 You don't need a real well trained enforcement officer, this  
17 is a real easy point to catch these people.

18  
19 Also the enforcement -- those designated as going out  
20 of Fairbanks, those enforcement officers up there should be  
21 notified as to those persons and to those numbers of animals  
22 that are going to be transported up there so that they can  
23 again be enumerated as to quota, that's what I feel about  
24 this situation.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anymore questions for Mr.  
27 Good? Thank you, Jim and Glenn.

28  
29 We adopted the one that was presented by Jack and  
30 Randy's printing up the other one, we'll have it after lunch.  
31 Any further questions? If we ever break for lunch.

32  
33 MR. MATHEWS: What time do you want.....

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: How about if we come back at  
36 1:30. Everyone, 1:30.

37  
38 (Off record - 12:24 p.m.)

39  
40 (On record - 1:40 p.m.)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ladies and gentlemen, we'd  
43 like to get reconvened, it is now 1:40 and we'll call this  
44 meeting back to order. Are we on at the recording?

45  
46 REPORTER: Yes.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: We have some Council members  
49 and some Staff members leaving early and if understand it, we  
50 have two action items that I'd like to take care of right

00227

1 away.

2

3 Number 1 is the resolution that is before you,  
4 drafted by Randy Rogers. Do you want Randy to read it? No.  
5 Do you want to go through it or -- maybe the best way to do  
6 it is that the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the  
7 resolution drafted by Randy Rogers.

8

9 MR. STICKMAN: I make a motion.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

12

13 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any discussion? I would ask  
16 that this resolution, once passed and finalized be mailed out  
17 immediately to all the respective committees that it  
18 involves.

19

20 MR. HENRY: Is this supposed to be written  
21 over again?

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, it's up to you to make  
24 changes right now or pass it and make changes?

25

26 MR. HENRY: Just on the second whereas.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, it has;  
29 whereas, the Western Interior Regional Council has gone on  
30 the record and is being -- so it's being, and the other thing  
31 is for our records, we need to know who moved -- who made the  
32 motion?

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mickey Stickman moved and  
35 Angela seconded.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. And so I'll correct  
38 it to being instead of been.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any corrections,  
41 additions?

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: And the motion includes  
44 providing copies of this to the effective advisory committees  
45 and other.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, that's my direction.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, okay.

50

00228

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: To all agencies.....

2  
3 MR. MATHEWS: All right.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: .....or entities involved.

6  
7 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions,  
10 corrections? It's my understanding that Vince's office will  
11 rewrite and fill in all this stuff that is left out so it's  
12 signing, the date and time it was passed.

13  
14 We do have a motion on the floor, are there any  
15 further corrections?

16  
17 MR. REAKOFF: Question.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question has been called for.  
20 All those in favor of adopting the resolution introduced by  
21 Randy Rogers on our behalf signify by saying aye.

22  
23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

26  
27 (No opposing responses)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries. We do have  
30 one other action item that should be taken care of  
31 immediately. Just as we were breaking for lunch, Ray, I and  
32 a few others, with Vince, got together and we would like to  
33 incorporate our feelings on the law enforcement portion  
34 within the refuges to be included in our annual report. So  
35 what would be the fastest way to handle this?

36  
37 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, if I understood  
38 the discussion, is that, you wanted to have a cooperative  
39 effort between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fish  
40 and Wildlife Protection, and Fish and Wildlife Service on the  
41 Koyukuk River dealing with the Ella's Cabin.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Checkpoint.

44  
45 MR. MATHEWS: Checkpoint, correct. And I  
46 believe that's how I understood it. And there was some  
47 discussion about the effect of the cabin's location and then  
48 transportation beyond that checkpoint, and I'm not -- I'm  
49 somewhat familiar but I don't know what you want done with  
50 that.



00229

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you remember, Ray?

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Well, it was for manning levels  
4 but also we received a lot of -- based on the testimony from  
5 many of our constituents or whatever, that there is wanton  
6 waste going on, it needs to be investigated and enforced.  
7 And that also, there's concern about potential for unlicensed  
8 guiding activities that should be examined. That was -- I  
9 think we should give them some examples of the things that --  
10 the concerns that people mentioned to us that should be  
11 looked into.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. The other one was.....

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Something with air cargo  
16 the.....

17

18 MR. COLLINS: Well, meat going through one  
19 checkpoint and not arriving -- going through the checkpoint  
20 on the river but maybe not arriving at Galena or Fairbanks,  
21 other destinations.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Uh-huh.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

26

27 MR. JONES: There's another thing about that,  
28 when non-resident hunters go through a checkpoint, they go  
29 through with all the meat sometimes but as they're going  
30 through Koyukuk sometimes, there needs to be some kind of  
31 establishment, a form filled out at Ella's checkpoint station  
32 that if they're going to donate the meat to say Koyukuk, a  
33 lot of times that happens, they drop their four quarters of  
34 moose off at Koyukuk and give it to the elders. So that's  
35 why sometimes some of the meat doesn't get to Galena check  
36 station or here -- or arrive here. So they need some kind of  
37 form to be filled out by the non-resident hunters before they  
38 leave the State, their intention what they do with the meat  
39 after they leave it at Galena check station -- or I mean  
40 Ella's Cabin check station.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: We're pretty good that --  
43 we'll have copies all over. And hunters themselves they can  
44 have the final copy.

45

46 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

49

50 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, there's a form in the

00230

1 back of the hunting regulations that the hunter that  
2 transfers meat is supposed to give to the person that  
3 receives the meat and also he retains a copy. So that would  
4 be real easy for enforcement to check here in Galena if that  
5 person shows up without meat, they would have a signature of  
6 the recipient.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: The other item that I wanted  
9 to keep an eye on is the special use permits and the  
10 transporters. Have them record everything because these  
11 people would be flown into headwaters and bypass Ella's  
12 Cabin.

13  
14 MR. MATHEWS: I thought the Ella's Cabin was  
15 a mandatory check station so I'm a little lost here on what  
16 you're indicating that the special use permits given to guide  
17 outfitters are not going through the check station and they  
18 should be checked or.....

19  
20 MR. COLLINS: Air taxi's we're talking about.

21  
22 MR. MATHEWS: I thought -- I don't know,  
23 someone may need to -- plus we have a controlled use area in  
24 effect there so I'm lost.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah. I'm trying to find a  
27 way to put into words some of the concerns that keep coming  
28 before us.

29  
30 MR. MATHEWS: Your main concern was that the  
31 Refuge, as well as the State has indicated that present  
32 staffing is not to a level to cover the enforcement concerns  
33 and that you're requesting manning -- additional direction  
34 and to give support to the Refuge to have -- and the State to  
35 have additional enforcement present.

36  
37 The way I understood it was that you were using  
38 examples of wanton waste, illegal guiding and other examples  
39 to show that there is a need for additional enforcement  
40 personnel here.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, that may have been  
43 my.....

44  
45 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know and others  
46 who.....

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida.

49  
50 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff

00231

1 Committee member. I believe the Chairman's last comment on  
2 special use permits was mentioned earlier in the meeting to  
3 be addressed in the annual report, for that report for next  
4 fall for that work group for next fall.

5  
6 MR. MATHEWS: Right. That will be part of  
7 it, I didn't know how he was coupling it with this. That we  
8 will ready start to work on the permitting for the various  
9 uses on the refuges coming up with a report and then the  
10 regulations and policies involved with that. I didn't know  
11 how you were coupling it with this. That's.....

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I may have gotten ahead  
14 of myself because -- Jack -- oh, what's your name again?

15  
16 MR. MERRITT: I'm Ed Merritt, manager of the  
17 Innoko Refuge. And I guess I'd just like to say that if  
18 we're going to -- if the Council's going to have a focus on  
19 law enforcement, I'd like to see that extended down to the  
20 Innoko Refuge, too. And also Vince mentioned funding, I mean  
21 you know, we're -- all three refuges in the Western Interior  
22 Council area are pretty strapped, they're under funded, under  
23 staffed, and we do have the opportunity to compete with  
24 subsistence money for projects, and the Innoko has applied  
25 for a law enforcement oriented project to deal with wanton  
26 waste, air transporters, some of these problems, and those  
27 funds have not been allocated yet. But I really think it's  
28 legitimate for this Council, if you have these concerns to  
29 support those funding initiatives that are going to bring the  
30 resources to bear on the problem.

31  
32 MR. MATHEWS: Well, let the record reflect I  
33 see a lot of heads shaking in agreement with that, is that  
34 the wishes of the Council to expand this annual report to the  
35 Innoko Refuge, the Koyukuk Refuge, based on the user  
36 conflicts that you've talked about, at least two years of  
37 that I know of on both areas? And I purposely stopped and  
38 did not say the Nowitna Refuge, I'm not -- I'm being careful  
39 with my words here just so we understand that.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this the wish of the Board  
42 to include Innoko, that we have already identified it as a  
43 problem area?

44  
45 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, you've identified it as an  
46 area for desiring cooperative management strategies to be  
47 worked at and, et cetera. So the record should reflect, by  
48 consensus, that they would like to add to the Innoko to this  
49 request in the annual report.

50

00232

1           And if I understood the earlier conversation, that  
2 copies of this section or the annual report would be provided  
3 to the refuges and the refuge managers and to refuge  
4 management staff in regional office. That way it covers all  
5 levels of it, so the manager has a copy, his supervisor has a  
6 copy and then the Board members do also when they deliberate  
7 on this.

8  
9           CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah. Anything else that you  
10 wanted to add to the annual report? Go ahead, Henry.

11  
12           MR. DEACON: I don't know if I understood  
13 this correctly, it's the guiding business that's going on, is  
14 that being put on this, especially in our area, too.

15  
16           MR. COLLINS: Well, the law enforcement of  
17 all of that, I think.....

18  
19           CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

20  
21           MR. COLLINS: .....the guiding, the  
22 transporting, the others, make sure that they're checking on  
23 all of them to see that they're following the law.

24  
25           MR. DEACON: It's in that what we're talking  
26 about?

27  
28           MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

29  
30           MR. DEACON: Okay.

31  
32           MR. MATHEWS: Yes. It was in the light of  
33 discussion on guides and all that. But it's more on law  
34 enforcement in general, that this Council is realizing that  
35 law enforcement plays a role in the conservation of the  
36 species and protection of subsistence uses. That's a very  
37 strong message that's being sent, so yes, it will deal with  
38 guides but it will be law enforcement in general, Henry, for  
39 the Innoko Refuge that you're requesting more intensive  
40 effort be done with that and funding be provided for that.

41  
42           CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, when we went over the  
43 guiding section, didn't we cover the whole Western Interior  
44 boundaries?

45  
46           MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we did.

47  
48           CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

49  
50           MR. MATHEWS: All the Federal lands within

00233

1 that area, correct.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. How is the fastest way  
4 to do this, make a motion to add?

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: That would be fine or I already  
7 went on record by consensus, it appears to be that you are  
8 adding this item to the annual report, whichever you would  
9 like.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we need to take action or  
12 just go ahead and add it by consensus.

13

14 MR. COLLINS: I move that we add it to the  
15 annual report?

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

18

19 MR. STICKMAN: I second.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion? If  
22 not, all those in favor of adding the law enforcement  
23 sections on to the annual report signify by saying aye.

24

25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

28

29 (No opposing responses)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. At this time  
32 I understand four or five Staff people leaving and possibly  
33 some Council members?

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chair, but it's only a  
36 couple minutes to 2:00, I think we've got 20 minutes or so  
37 before people have to kind of do that. And we still have a  
38 discussion on Unit 24 caribou, which I don't know if those  
39 members leaving to catch planes would want to be here for  
40 that. But I don't think it's that long of a discussion. Oh,  
41 looking at the area biologist it looks like about a seven  
42 minute discussion.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Randy.

45

46 MR. ROGERS: We haven't actually considered  
47 who would represent this group on the Koyukuk planning  
48 process.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

00234

1 MR. ROGERS: So we should.....

2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

4  
5 MR. ROGERS: .....at least identify who might  
6 be interested, and then as we work with the advisory  
7 committees then we can bring the whole group together.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. That maybe might  
10 be the last item on the Koyukuk. As you know, Jack Reakoff,  
11 Ray Collins, and my terms are up with this meeting. And I  
12 cannot see nominating any one of us because we don't know  
13 whether we will be reappointed or not.

14  
15 MR. MATHEWS: Maybe we should hold off on  
16 that nomination.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, I'd rather appoint someone  
19 now.

20  
21 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, okay.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: And that will show our  
24 constituents of advisory committees to the State that we are  
25 attempting to move on this. And we have Mickey and Benedict  
26 here, I don't know whether they'll be appointed by the Middle  
27 Yukon or not. Would either one of you be interested in?

28  
29 MR. STICKMAN: Well, actually I was going to  
30 nominate Benedict.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. And at all times we'd  
33 like to nominate -- or accept a second. And at this time I'd  
34 like to ask Sam Henry to sit in as alternate for the time  
35 being until we.....

36  
37 MR. MATHEWS: Who was the first one?

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict Jones and Sam Henry  
40 as alternate. I would like to put this in the form of a  
41 motion please. So the Chair would entertain a motion to  
42 adopt these two as our appointees.

43  
44 MR. STICKMAN: I make a motion to nominate  
45 Ben and Samson Henry as his alternate to the moose -- the  
46 Koyukuk Moose Management Group.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

49  
50 MR. COLLINS: Second.

00235

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been moved by Mickey and  
2 seconded by Ray Collins to appoint Benedict Jones of Koyukuk  
3 as primary and Sam Henry of Allakaket as the alternate to the  
4 Koyukuk Co-Moose Management Work Planning Group -- Working  
5 Group. Any questions? All those in favor of the motion  
6 signify by saying aye.

7  
8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

11  
12 (No opposing responses)

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Vince, seven  
15 minutes or less?

16  
17 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, he looked.....

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: We're still on Unit 24. Who  
20 do we have to address that?

21  
22 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I asked Glenn Stout to  
23 deal with that and there's some aides there to help. It's  
24 short -- it's an important issue but I think there's a short  
25 path on how to work on it.

26  
27 MR. STOUT: To begin with there were some  
28 questions and I guess the first thing I should probably make  
29 sure I'm going down the right path here as far as what was  
30 written in as the agenda item. But I know there was  
31 questions earlier this winter about the ability to harvest  
32 caribou down in the south end of the Kanuti Refuge. And  
33 there was discussion about maybe changing seasons down there  
34 and so am I right, that is what the agenda item was  
35 addressing?

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, Glenn, I think when I  
38 brought that up it was to reopen Kanuti Flats for harvest if  
39 it's sustainable. Because if I remember right we are closed,  
40 I mean that herd is off limits right now for harvest, right?

41  
42 MR. STOUT: Okay, I'm -- what we do have  
43 right now as far as Game Management Unit 24 is an August 10th  
44 through September 30th for that Kanuti Flats area. Basically  
45 upstream from the Fish Creek confluence at the Southfork and  
46 south. And so that basically ends up being this -- getting  
47 right in here is approximately where that line ends up being,  
48 it goes to the north here and then up over here where the  
49 Fish Creek drainage goes in. And the way that's set up there  
50 was just a fall season.

00236

1 To the south, basically that's designed to protect --  
2 originally to protect the herd which spends most of the time  
3 there right in between 20, 21(B), 24. And so after  
4 discussions with our supervisors and with some of the guys  
5 that have been doing the work over there, on the Ray Mountain  
6 Herd, as well as some of the biologists with Kanuti Refuge, I  
7 feel pretty confident that that herd can sustain increased  
8 harvest at this time. But it's still not at the point where  
9 the season can be liberalized to the extent that the Western  
10 Arctic and Central Herds are.

11  
12 What, you know, I think would be real positive as far  
13 as entertaining proposals that would bring this portion of  
14 the unit in line with the seasons that we have set in 20(F),  
15 which is immediately to the south here and is established for  
16 that same Ray Mountain Herd. With -- and drawing in a line  
17 that we would consider would be south of the Kanuti River,  
18 the eastern edge here would be approximately Allakaket/Tanana  
19 trail, excluding the Dalton Highway Corridor. That, at this  
20 point would be just a rough idea of what we have.

21  
22 The seasons that are set up in 20(F) and this would  
23 go a long way in just simplifying regulations, you know,  
24 making them more consistent and in line with each other are  
25 for the Tazitna River Drainage is they have two winter  
26 seasons with that, the option there where it would be  
27 December 1st through December 10th, March 1st through March  
28 15th, and as well as the fall season.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, how many?

31  
32 MR. STOUT: And that's one caribou.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Jack.

35  
36 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I'm fairly  
37 familiar with that herd and that herd is real widely  
38 scattered, it doesn't really concentrate in any one area,  
39 extends the east and west of the Dalton Highway. And I feel  
40 that if an opening was to be made there's two 20(F) seasons  
41 and one is for the Tazitna and the other is for the western  
42 part showing the February 1 to March 31. I think that would  
43 be more in line with most people's spring hunt timing, you  
44 know, that would be -- so I'd be in favor of more of the  
45 season that aligns with the western -- west part of the  
46 Dalton Highway. Because it's considerably -- it's down in  
47 the lower part of the Kanuti Flats. It's not quite as far up  
48 as Glenn pointed to there, it's down further. Those caribou  
49 stay in little 20 to 50 caribou bunches and they're isolated  
50 from each other. So they're not really subject to real high,



00237

1 you know, it's not like there's a massive amount of caribou  
2 to be really hammered away at because they spread themselves  
3 all over the place.

4  
5 So I would be in favor of liberalizing that season.  
6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: What were your changes, the  
8 recommendation?

9  
10 MR. REAKOFF: Basically it would be call for  
11 proposals for next -- for next year's cycle for this unit.

12  
13 MR. STOUT: Yeah, that would be most  
14 definitely something we could work with, the advisory  
15 committees take -- you know, formulate proposals out of the  
16 advisory -- the State Fish and Game Advisory Committees to go  
17 forward to the Board of Game.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: So there's no real action  
20 needed from this Board?

21  
22 MR. STOUT: Pardon me?

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: No real action needed from  
25 this Council?

26  
27 MR. STOUT: No, I don't think so. And just  
28 to -- so you're aware, you know, I'd be more than willing to  
29 work with anybody that was interested in starting to put a  
30 proposal together in that respect.

31  
32 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

35  
36 MR. REAKOFF: We could propose both, a  
37 Federal and State season that's similar because it is Federal  
38 and State land overlapping. So it would be good to entertain  
39 a proposal at our fall meeting. We might formulate a  
40 proposal maybe after discussion or something for the Federal  
41 and the.....

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: So you would like to see a  
44 proposal at our fall meeting?

45  
46 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Is that fine with you?

49  
50 MR. STOUT: Yes.

00238

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are you aware of this, Tom?

2  
3 MR. EARLY: Yes.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Because we'll want the  
6 wildlife refuge people -- and Barry, also, that he knows?

7  
8 MR. EARLY: Yes.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, he knows that we are  
11 considering one, fine. Dave.

12  
13 MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is  
14 Dave Yokel with the Bureau of Land Management, Northern Field  
15 Office. I'm a little bit behind on this I understand from  
16 what I just heard that Fish and Game and National Wildlife --  
17 Fish and Wildlife service have been discussing this. As far  
18 as I know they haven't discussed it with the Bureau of Land  
19 Management, which does manage lands that are crucial to that  
20 herd. And in response to Jack's comment, there are those  
21 caribou scattered outside of that area that you discussed but  
22 the BLM has done a radio collar study of the Ray Mountain  
23 Herd.

24  
25 Between 1994 and 1997 we have a report on that. And  
26 those animals that were collared and do not really get  
27 outside of that area between the Yukon River and the Kanuti  
28 River, they don't get as far east as the Dalton Highway.  
29 Just from that one limited study, at least.

30  
31 MR. REAKOFF: Well, that's what I say, they  
32 don't move around a lot, they're fairly specific within the  
33 areas that they're in. But it's the same type of caribou  
34 that go east and west of the -- and that's the seasons for  
35 20(F) are basically for managing on that same population.  
36 That's what my contention is is they don't include the hods  
37 and the portion in that Ray Mountain Herd.

38  
39 MR. YOKEL: Okay, I misunderstood you.

40  
41 MR. REAKOFF: They're fairly sedentary  
42 caribou, that's what you're seeing with your radio collar.

43  
44 MR. YOKEL: Right. Because it is a very  
45 small herd. So they don't require a large range but I would  
46 like to say for the record that I think the Bureau of Land  
47 Management would like to be involved on any discussions on  
48 this herd since our agency has had a long interest. And, in  
49 fact, has designated areas of critical environmental concern  
50 for this herd.

00239

1           So thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2

3           CHAIRMAN SAM: Are you planning to attend our  
4 fall meeting wherever it is?

5

6           MR. YOKEL: Yes. We always intend to attend  
7 all of your meetings.

8

9           CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have anything else on  
10 the Ray Mountain Herd? There's no action needed at this  
11 time, so I'd like to go on to the next item. At this time  
12 I'd still like to recognize Staff who may have a report that  
13 want to get on that 2:30 flight here.

14

15           MR. MATHEWS: Right. We need to get the  
16 Staff from Bureau of Land Management. They're on the flight  
17 that's leaving soon here. And then I think when they're  
18 completed then we're going to jump around on the agenda, but  
19 to make our fall meeting plans it would be best when  
20 everybody's here on dates and locations. It doesn't take  
21 long and then those that are staying, we'll still have a  
22 quorum. The record will reflect there'll still be a quorum  
23 here but then we could go back to other agency reports. So I  
24 believe BLM should go up first on their reports.

25

26           MR. DENTON: Thank you. My name is Jeff  
27 Denton, I'm with the Anchorage Field Office of BLM. And I  
28 guess I'll make this pretty quick. The first things of major  
29 importance to you, again, is the harvest reporting systems  
30 that we've got intact with Lime Village, how those are  
31 progressing, in the communities and our efforts there, which  
32 have been largely unsuccessful. We're going to make another  
33 run at it again through the school system and through the  
34 tribal councils and through every way we can to see if we can  
35 get enough interest to even begin that program, and we'll  
36 keep trying and see how it works.

37

38           Lime Village, Phil Graham who was the primary for the  
39 past four years no longer does the reporting for there. So  
40 that's been real inconsistent in reporting here lately. We  
41 mentioned this the last meeting and I believe somebody was  
42 going to inform them that we kind of needed that data, and I  
43 did get one report. But since then I've got none again. So  
44 it's not progressing real consistently through time here,  
45 even thought that's fairly critical information. So just to  
46 let you know there's still difficulties with harvest  
47 reporting. And if there's -- anybody has ideas on how to  
48 better approach this, we'd certainly like to know.

49

50           I talked to Angela here and got all the GASH

00240

1 communities and the school system principals and anybody else  
2 that we might try to contact there to see if we can generate  
3 a consistent interest in time and harvest reporting. And so  
4 we're going to take that angle.

5  
6 We have increased some of our enforcement activity  
7 within, especially, the GASH area there. We did a cite one  
8 -- one of our outfitters there for occupational trespass and  
9 that's pretty much resolved now. And he just happened to  
10 build an operations cabin on BLM land without telling anybody  
11 and operating out of there, this sort of thing.

12  
13 The other major update projects BLM's doing. One is  
14 our ownership map which has been kind of an issue here for  
15 about two years. We're nearing the end of finalizing a map  
16 for preliminary printing and we'll get it out to you here  
17 before the start of the new regulatory year on kind of a  
18 limited basis to see how well it's accepted and what kind of  
19 demand we can expect for it before we go into a major cost of  
20 printing a lot of those because it's a real expensive sort of  
21 venture.

22  
23 And other things in update, we did 15 million acres  
24 last year, land cover mapping which is kind of a real kind of  
25 gross basis habitat mapping project for everything from  
26 basically Norton Sound to the Iditarod River, which covers  
27 all the Innoko bottoms, all of the Anvik country. Part of  
28 the Innoko Refuge, they coordinated with it, part of the Y-K  
29 Delta Refuge. This next year we're planning on doing from  
30 the Iditarod River clear to the crest of the Alaska Range,  
31 which is nearly 100 percent within the Western Council  
32 region, so that will be one kind of layer a day that we can  
33 start putting a lot more of our data and track our fire  
34 ecology and the dynamics of fire changes and habitat and  
35 population data as well as harvest data, too. So it's a real  
36 important data layer in Alaska when we're dealing with such  
37 huge landscapes. So we'll be completing that. The field  
38 work this summer and the final products, and actually these  
39 are analytical tools that we can actually manipulate data and  
40 generate acres and this sort of thing out of -- you know, do  
41 modeling with it for moose habitat or various things. We can  
42 develop those models. So it will be of great value.

43  
44 Other than that, we mentioned before we're going to  
45 make an effort at the Innoko Yukon south of the refuge there  
46 of a moose survey next year if snow and budgeting allows us  
47 to do so, and try to coordinate with Fish and Game on that.  
48 And because we -- I mean it's been an issue that's coming, we  
49 know we've got to try to get prepared for it. It's just a  
50 real expensive venture and budgets, we have to do it inter-

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1 agency wise because neither one of us has a budget to do it  
2 alone and so we'll be working on that and keep you updated on  
3 that.

4  
5 That's really all I have unless you have some  
6 questions.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

9  
10 MR. JONES: Yeah, I can see your report map  
11 there on prior -- the previous years and is there any  
12 indication of habitat for moose -- has the moose increased in  
13 that area after the past herd area?

14  
15 MR. DENTON: That particular map, I believe,  
16 is one of the refuge maps, it's not ours. But we do have --  
17 the Anchorage District of BLM is south of these areas, around  
18 McGrath and down through that country. We do have quite a  
19 bit of data in those areas, the old -- the Fairwell Bear and  
20 some of these others of quite significant moose response in  
21 those areas over the last, you know 15 to 20 years and that's  
22 been followed pretty closely.

23  
24 But I don't have the knowledge of these particular  
25 burns and what's going on here, that would be some of the  
26 refuge folks, that's their analysis on that map there.  
27 That's not mine.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: That one right there -- yeah,  
30 I worked for BLM for years and it seems like at first I told  
31 them -- within the Kanuti Flats, burns every five through 12  
32 years so there's no real worries about habitat, this burn --  
33 they got one of those net burn policies, burns whatever.

34  
35 MR. JONES: My question was if the habitat in  
36 that area, has the moose increased to move into the area?

37  
38 MR. DENTON: Yeah, you have to direct that  
39 question at the specific manager that manages that particular  
40 area.

41  
42 MR. EARLY: I'm Tom Early, manager of Kanuti  
43 Refuge. I didn't hear all of your question, Benedict?

44  
45 MR. JONES: My question was in the previous  
46 burn area habitat, has the moose increased in that area or  
47 moved into the area from other areas?

48  
49 MR. EARLY: It seems like the moose density  
50 is quite -- is pretty good in some of those burn areas, and

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1 for instance, the 1972 burn area, the large bright red area  
2 on the Kanuti Refuge, we have some pretty high density  
3 numbers in that area that would be on the Kanuti canyon area  
4 and that portion of the refuge.

5  
6 I don't know if I can really say exactly when the  
7 moose numbers pick, Glenn, maybe be able to tell a little bit  
8 about that. But in essence, the fires seem to be a  
9 prerequisite to keep the moose population up in some of those  
10 areas because of succession and the brows -- it keeps the  
11 brows available to them after a few years, brows reappear in  
12 numerous numbers of brows and it allows higher moose  
13 concentration. We're doing studies on that type of thing  
14 right now. And I can elaborate on that when my report is  
15 due, too.

16  
17 But basically the fires seem to be, really a  
18 prerequisite in a way for moose in certain areas of our  
19 refuge. But it takes a few years for that to occur.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tom.

22  
23 MR. EARLY: Yes.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida, do you have anything to  
26 add before you leave?

27  
28 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff  
29 Committee member. I just wanted to say thank you and I enjoy  
30 working with all of you and I enjoy your challenges and your  
31 phone calls.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I'd like to thank  
34 Ida for all the help she's given us and keeping us informed  
35 ahead of these important meetings. Thank you, Ida.

36  
37 Do we have any other agencies leaving? Steve Ulvi.

38  
39 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, while he's  
40 walking up, Angela and Henry, we're going to try to get them  
41 on an earlier flight otherwise they have to take a three hour  
42 tour of Fairbanks waiting for their planes. We're trying to  
43 get them on a plane now so they're going to be leaving and do  
44 that. So Angela and Henry will be going. I suppose I better  
45 seize the moment, is there any -- well, we'll have to get  
46 back to you on dates for meeting.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that will be fine.

49  
50 MR. DEACON: I kind of hate to leave now, but

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1 I really appreciate this meeting. I got more information out  
2 of this meeting than the previous other two meetings that we  
3 had. And as I -- you know, I'm really interested in this,  
4 how we run -- my main other concern is the land -- village  
5 corporation land. You know, who takes care of that, these are  
6 the issues that really represent the people are concerned  
7 about. And you know how Native people are, they just let  
8 anybody use their land when somebody comes in. So that's one  
9 of the issues that should be addressed from the -- addressed  
10 this summer.

11  
12 Thank you again.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for your  
15 participation, and see you next time.

16  
17 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I was also --  
18 Mickey will try to catch a plane, but you still would have a  
19 quorum.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

22  
23 MR. MATHEWS: So again, I failed to mention  
24 that. Sorry to interrupt Steve, he's been waiting for days.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: You've got a captive audience  
27 there Steve. Are we set then?

28  
29 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, Steve's ready.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Steve.

32  
33 MR. ULVI: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
34 Steve Ulvi, management assistant at Gates of the Arctic  
35 National Park and Yukon-Charlie National Preserve. I'm sort  
36 of feeling left out here since we don't have Koyukuk moose  
37 management problems but we're here and we always learn things  
38 and I really enjoy being in Galena, a lot of friendly people  
39 here.

40  
41 Just to make a couple of quick points for you here.  
42 It's been a long meeting. I just wanted to mention that Jack  
43 Reakoff, as you know, is on our Gates of the Arctic  
44 Subsistence Resource Commission, he's a Secretarial  
45 appointment and he's being reappointed right now by the  
46 Secretary. He's a very valuable member of our SRC as he is  
47 of this group. Your appointment is Pollock Simon from  
48 Allakaket as you well know. He's a very valuable member in  
49 good standing and you don't have to take any action on him in  
50 the near future, he remains.

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1 Our next SRC meeting is scheduled for April 20th and  
2 21st in Fairbanks. And one of the main topics we'll be  
3 covering there besides catching up after not meeting for over  
4 a year is the subsistence management plan which I suspect  
5 Hollis may mention. They're a little bit ahead of us with  
6 it. But essentially it's a plan that we've all been waiting  
7 for for a long time, that we work in direct cooperation with  
8 the SRC to develop and it's really kind of put everything in  
9 one place. It has to do with subsistence in the Park. And  
10 we're bringing a revised draft to this meeting and spend a  
11 day long workshop session on it. And once we've got to that  
12 point where the SRC's happy with it and we're happy with it,  
13 then in your fall meeting, which I hoped it'd be this meeting  
14 but it would be the fall meeting, we'll have copies of that  
15 for you folks and get it on your agenda with Vince in case  
16 there's any discussions from a regional perspective.

17  
18 Wildlife studies, very little going on in Gates of  
19 the Arctic in GMU 24. The only two I can think of really is  
20 a continuing dall sheep study around Anaktuvuk Pass which a  
21 few of those animals, I think are just in the northern most  
22 portion of GMU 24, most of it's in 26. So it's right around  
23 Anaktuvuk. As you know, we have a special community harvest,  
24 sheep harvest there of 60 animals. Any sex with a couple of  
25 limitations there and that's one of the reasons we're doing  
26 that collar study in that area, is to try to better  
27 understand the seasonal movements of dall sheep so that we're  
28 sure that there isn't over harvest of a small sub-population  
29 in one of those drainages. Things are going quite well.

30  
31 The other study is a snowshoe hare population  
32 monitoring study that's been going on for two or three years  
33 up by the Wiseman area near Jack there. And that's tied to  
34 furbearers and lynx populations and furbearer harvest and  
35 things for a small area. I really am not sure whether it  
36 will have any widespread use but for that small area, that  
37 part of the Koyukuk, will probably find it useful.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, if lynx were \$500 a pelt  
40 we'd be truly.....

41  
42 MR. ULVI: You bet. Well, I hear you. I  
43 remember the last couple of cycles when they were.

44  
45 And the last is fall hunt monitoring and you've spent  
46 a lot of time talking here about frustrations with  
47 perceptions of conflict and real conflict and people  
48 concerned about the encroachment of people from other parts  
49 of the state hunting. We heard a few things last fall after  
50 the fact about the John and Alatna Rivers, which you're



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1 probably aware of, and we talked about in Allakaket last  
2 October a little bit. And most of our monitoring effort has  
3 been on the Kobuk River, where you're aware there was an  
4 incident last fall. We've been monitoring hunters there for  
5 four years running and we're going to continue to do that  
6 with checking licenses and monitoring what's going on there.

7  
8 We're going to pay some attention to the John and  
9 Alatna Rivers and we'll probably be stopping in to talk to  
10 folks in Alatna and Allakaket and Bettles about that as fall  
11 approaches. The -- we have a pamphlet out on catch and  
12 release that kind of goes along with some of the State  
13 pamphlets on sheefish, in particular for the Kobuk as a  
14 result of Jack and others on the SRC and Levi Cleeve and  
15 others asking for something to help those fishermen who catch  
16 and release a lot of sheefish to take better care and have  
17 less mortality due to that. So we've got a pamphlet we've  
18 developed and we're handing to floaters and hunters and  
19 fisher people on that.

20  
21 And then as a result of discussions on the SRC and  
22 Ray and your group in Allakaket last fall with the whole  
23 wanton waste issue which we've been trying to deal with on  
24 the Kobuk also. We're developing a simple pamphlet on field  
25 care of meat and ethics and, of course, it's tied directly to  
26 wanton waste. We're trying to stay away from that law and  
27 remind people that they have an ethical responsibility that  
28 goes beyond the law to make every effort to take care of that  
29 meat. And that's an educational effort. We try to do it by  
30 contacting people and having these pamphlets, talking to  
31 them, giving them to the air transporters, the air carriers  
32 and when we contact people in the field, we certainly do  
33 point out things we think they can do better. We can ask  
34 them how they're taking care of certain things if they've got  
35 meat in camp or what their plans are. So I think the  
36 information, we can go a long ways to mitigating some of  
37 those problems.

38  
39 And I think you're absolutely right, my last item is,  
40 that we're putting more pressure on our transportors because  
41 I think that's really the area that probably even down here  
42 in the Koyukuk is more of a concern or should be more of a  
43 concern than the guides. Generally guides are under very  
44 strict regulations and we watch them close and they have to  
45 report everything they do to the agency. Whereas the air  
46 transporters, they have a permit and there's no upper limit  
47 currently on the numbers of air transporters or the numbers  
48 of parties they can bring or anything else. And they bring  
49 in a lot of folks. So we're finding that's where we're  
50 spending most of our field time.

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1           So I commend you on your discussions. And I  
2 especially wanted to commend the State, also, because being a  
3 Federal manager, I'm pretty amazed that they spend the money  
4 and the time to come down here and cooperate as closely as  
5 they do on these Federal issues. I really think it's a time  
6 of, you know, times much better than they used to be. So  
7 these folks are doing a great job and that's all I had.

8  
9           CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

10  
11           MR. COLLINS: Could we have copies of that  
12 pamphlet that you've developed on handling of meat and so on.  
13 Because that's being part of our discussion in fall.

14  
15           MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chair, while he was  
16 talking I noted here that when we develop the workshop that  
17 I'm going to canvas all the different agencies for ideas and  
18 suggestions of how to do that workshop on wanton waste. And  
19 I know Steve will bring that there, and there's some other  
20 efforts elsewhere. So we'll pull that together and have law  
21 enforcements and all the agencies involved if the desire.

22  
23           CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything further for Steve  
24 Ulvi. Thank you, Steve.

25  
26           MR. ULVI: Thank you.

27  
28           CHAIRMAN SAM: And we look forward to seeing  
29 that pamphlet.

30  
31           MR. TWITCHELL: Mr. Chair and Council  
32 members, I'm Hollis Twitchell at Denali National Park. I'll  
33 be very brief as I know there's many people waiting to get on  
34 with the travels. I left five copies of a subsistence user  
35 guide with Ray Collins and he has those that would be  
36 available for you to review. Was requested by the Denali  
37 Subsistence Resource Commission to provide information to our  
38 users to better understand subsistence use of Park areas,  
39 both the Park and Preserve. So he has those copies for you.

40  
41           We're also working diligently with the Commission to  
42 develop a subsistence management plan. We'll bring that  
43 before you at this fall meeting so you'll have a chance to  
44 review it at that time. We've been working on this for about  
45 a year now and making good progress on it. That's the main  
46 issues regarding subsistence in Denali that I was going to  
47 mention.

48  
49           If you don't have any further questions for me, then  
50 I'll just say thank you and it's been very enlightening and

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1 enjoyable meeting.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Ray.

4

5 MR. COLLINS: Do the copies of the letters  
6 get delivered to Vince or to the members or what.....

7

8 MR. TWITCHELL: Yes. The Commission met  
9 February 26th to try to get in front of the Regional Council  
10 meetings and they've written five different letters dealing  
11 with a variety of issues. The proposals that are in the  
12 regulation cycle that could effect Denali, their positions on  
13 it. They responded to a letter of support for Ray Collins,  
14 recognizing the importance that he plays on our Denali  
15 Commission as well as the Regional Council, and that linkage  
16 between the Commissions and the Councils, I think, is  
17 crucial. And so they passed a motion recommending in  
18 supporting Ray Collins' reappointment to this Council.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, appreciate that.  
21 Anything further for Mr. Twitchell?

22

23 MR. COLLINS: I'd like to make sure Pollock  
24 gets one of these, and I gave one to Jack. And then I'll  
25 leave the other three with you and you can share them with  
26 the others but Pollock probably wants to see that because  
27 he's working with the group.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Do we have anymore  
30 agency reports? Tom.

31

32 MR. EARLY: I'm Tom Early, manager of Kanuti  
33 Refuge. And I also will try to be pretty brief. To just  
34 give you a quick rundown on what we've accomplished the last  
35 few months and maybe a little bit in the last summer, and  
36 maybe what we didn't accomplish also.

37

38 I think -- Glenn, are you going to talk anymore  
39 Glenn? We're working with the State and Glenn in a wolf  
40 census on the Kanuti Refuge as well as the Koyukuk, he  
41 mentioned it briefly before the whole Koyukuk Drainage up to  
42 the eastern Kanuti boundary, and if we get snow for that  
43 we'll try to do a wolf census on our area but we need several  
44 inches of snow in order for that to be effective and  
45 reliable. So we're on hold right now for that.

46

47 We are also monitoring wolves. We have collars on  
48 about 11 animals right now indicating we have about five  
49 active packs on the refuge. Six, with one being just on the  
50 periphery of the refuge, and they all seem to be fairly

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1 healthy. One pack has a total number of 17 and.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Excuse me, Tom.

4

5 MR. EARLY: Yes.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Randy, you got my phone  
8 number, leave me that 800 number on my phone number.

9

10 MR. ROGERS: Yeah, sorry to be running.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, it's no problem. I just  
13 wanted to thank you for the resolution and the help that  
14 we've been getting out of you.

15

16 MR. ROGERS: I'm assuming I wouldn't get a  
17 chance to say anything, but I'll give you my thanks for my  
18 support and I look forward to working with all of you in  
19 improving the moose management. We'll be in touch as we  
20 figure out how we can best proceed.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

23

24 MR. ROGERS: I've got to get the resolution  
25 from Pete through Vince, to make sure that we get it down to  
26 the Board of Game in time, and I'll do that.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, that's what I wanted to  
29 clarify. Thank you.

30

31 MR. ROGERS: Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Excuse us, Tom.

34

35 MR. EARLY: That's okay. It's been real good  
36 to work with the State, too, with Glenn and Randy. We've  
37 really had a good working relationship. And so our wolf  
38 population is pretty healthy right now.

39

40 We did attempt a moose census this fall. Actually we  
41 did not attempt it because of inadequate snow, which pretty  
42 well was the case in most of the Interior of Alaska. We  
43 really wanted to but we'll have to hold on that until next  
44 fall. We really need that information. Every five years we  
45 try to get a complete census but we did not do that this  
46 year.

47

48 We did do kind of a moose range -- a winter range  
49 survey which I have a map on the wall showing that and it  
50 does show some of the burn areas that we had also, in

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1 different colors indicating different color years of the  
2 burns and that's what Benedict was asking about here a little  
3 while ago.

4  
5 But the main purpose of that survey, we flew straight  
6 lines north and south on the refuge in trying to identify and  
7 as we flew we counted moose. And this we just did the 3rd to  
8 the 5th of March, just a few days ago. And we're trying to  
9 identify critical moose winter habitat similar to what Innoko  
10 Refuge is doing and we -- and this year was not a real heavy  
11 snow year so the moose were scattered more than normal. I  
12 believe when we get heavy snow I think we'll find the moose  
13 to be quite concentrated and a little bit more indicative of  
14 maybe the real critical habitat. But that does show us where  
15 the moose are utilizing. And they are utilizing burn areas  
16 as well as the non-burned areas. They don't seem to be  
17 distinguishing between the two or prioritizing and not using  
18 any of the burn areas basically.

19  
20 This next summer we did get a funding package for  
21 establishing a counting tower for fish, salmon, specifically  
22 on the -- near the mouth of the Hinshaw Creek and we're going  
23 to be working with TCC on that. And we hope to have that up  
24 and running as soon as we can get approval through TCC and  
25 have that running, probably using people from Allakaket on  
26 that tower.

27  
28 We also are going to -- I think it was the last  
29 meeting that we had in Allakaket, there was discussion about  
30 the signage for the controlled use areas on Kanuti. The  
31 Kanuti controlled use area is fairly critical because -- for  
32 the signage because it does exclude outsiders, basically  
33 people from outside of Game Management Unit 24 within that  
34 area for hunting moose. So we're going to be putting some  
35 signs on the various rivers coming into the refuge or near  
36 the refuge or coming into the controlled use area basically,  
37 and that includes the Alatna River, Koyukuk River, the  
38 southfork of the Koyukuk, Fish Creek, Bonanza and Kanuti  
39 River. So that -- when people float in to those areas there  
40 will be a sign, as much as I hate to see signs on refuges,  
41 but it's just kind of come to that point, where they'll know  
42 that they're coming into the controlled use area and there  
43 should be no question on that.

44  
45 And the last item is that we have also funding for a  
46 package of assessment of some of the contaminants,  
47 specifically the e-coli problem, I think that was addressed  
48 at the last meeting, also in the Allakaket area on the  
49 Koyukuk River. And we'll work with the villages and try to  
50 get a little bit better handle on that. So that's all I

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1 have.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I appreciate that. And  
4 I would like to give my thanks for those signs, no matter how  
5 much I hate signs, too, that -- with all the hunting  
6 pressures and everything that we're getting into, I think  
7 that residents will really appreciate those signs.

8

9 Thank you for that effort. Any further questions for  
10 Tom?

11

12 MR. EARLY: Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Tom. I forgot your  
15 name, go ahead.

16

17 MR. MERRITT: Again, for the record, I'm Ed  
18 Merritt, manager of the Innoko Refuge. I know that things  
19 are a little bit behind schedule and some of what I was going  
20 to talk about, I think, would have been -- I think would be  
21 of interest to everyone but primarily of interest to Henry  
22 and Angela because it has to do with some things down in that  
23 area. So I can run through them or I can just talk about a  
24 couple of things that I think are of more general interest to  
25 the Council.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: And if it's brief, why don't  
28 you run through it because we would like -- we are trying to  
29 resolve their problems.....

30

31 MR. MERRITT: Okay.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: .....along with ours today,  
34 the Koyukuk problems.

35

36 MR. MERRITT: That would be fine. Well, I  
37 was going to report on our snow survey efforts over the  
38 winter. We've been conducting a refuge wide snow survey.  
39 We've got about nine stations where we measure snow depth on  
40 a monthly basis. And in addition to that we've got a station  
41 where we look at snow conditions, moisture content. And what  
42 we've found so far this winter is that as of a couple of  
43 weeks ago we had an average snow depth of 28 inches across  
44 the refuge and the measurements range from a low of about 18  
45 inches to a high of about 32 inches. And it increases from  
46 east to west as you get over towards Grayling and in that  
47 area that snow is quite a bit deeper.

48

49 And in the process of doing this we've also been  
50 flying over our critical moose winter range and it -- we're

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1 kind of keeping an eye on things. We're seeing lots of  
2 moose, they seem to be in pretty good shape. We've got lots  
3 of calves that have still survived through the winter from  
4 last year and so we're thinking that the moose herd is going  
5 to come through this winter in pretty good shape unless  
6 there's a whole lot of snow fall between now and the end of  
7 the season, which we don't really anticipate at this point.

8  
9 Wolf sign across the refuge is pretty light. There's  
10 more wolf activity over along the Yukon which kind of makes  
11 sense because the snow's deeper down in that neck of the  
12 woods and there's a lot of moose concentrated in there and  
13 we've also seen a little wolf activity up in the upper  
14 Iditarod where that Beaver Mountain Caribou Herd is  
15 wintering, and we're seeing a few kill sites on caribou up  
16 there. But we're not seeing many kill sites on the Innoko or  
17 Iditarod Rivers across most of the refuge.

18  
19 We're about to wrap up a study of the nutritional  
20 value of willows and other species of plants that are  
21 important moose winter food and this is being done by Ed  
22 Malick, some of you know him. He used to be our biotech and  
23 he's a student up at UAF now. And we don't have the final --  
24 it's a master's thesis and we don't have the final report yet  
25 but, I think basically what it's going to show is that  
26 there's a certain point after which these willows are no  
27 longer valuable as food. It's really the smaller plant  
28 material below a certain thickness. Once this stuff gets  
29 older and more woody, that it pretty much goes down to very  
30 little nutritional value. And what happens is that the moose  
31 have to extend more energy to walk around and crunch this  
32 stuff up and digest it and the food value that they get out  
33 of it -- when it reaches that point they'll basically just  
34 stay put and starve, and they'll either die or they'll  
35 survive until things green up again.

36  
37 So we'll have a full report on that study for you at  
38 the next meeting. And I think that's going to be a real  
39 interesting one because it's going to tie in all of our  
40 population information on both predators and prey along with  
41 our habitat information. We've been saying that, we think  
42 about 80 percent of the winter food that's available to moose  
43 is being eaten every year but we're kind of -- we've been  
44 kind of looking at, you know, more of those plants than we're  
45 finding out that is really of nutritional value. And so  
46 we're thinking that maybe more like 100 percent right now.  
47 And you know, I've been saying this all along and it's my  
48 story and I'm sticking to it.

49  
50 I think that the 5,000 or so moose that we have on

00252

1 the Innoko Refuge is too many and one of these days we're  
2 going to get a string of harsh winters and we're going to see  
3 that population take a nose dive out there.

4  
5 So there are folks who don't agree with that, but I  
6 guess time will tell.

7  
8 I wanted to touch briefly on the Illinois Creek Mine  
9 situation. We've expressed some concerns regarding that  
10 operation in the form of a letter to the Alaska Department of  
11 Natural Resources to the project manager who oversees the  
12 Illinois Creek Mine. And I've got a copy of that letter  
13 which I'll pass out to you guys, it's actually from our  
14 Ecological Services office in Fairbanks. But there's  
15 basically a couple of areas that we're real concerned about.  
16 One is how they're going to clean up and treat all that  
17 material, that ore that's left up there and that's been  
18 treated with that cyanide solution over the years. And you  
19 know, we just want to make sure that we don't have a long-  
20 term environmental problem when they wrap that up. And the  
21 other concern that we have and that I think I'm even more  
22 concerned about this than the ore keep and it has to do with  
23 their reclamation efforts. You know when they go in there  
24 and start seeding these areas with vegetation during the  
25 closure process. We're real concerned that we're going to  
26 get some evasive weed up in there and it's going to be up in  
27 the headwaters in one of our drainages and it's going to come  
28 down and invade the refuge. And it's not something that  
29 people in Alaska think much about because, you know, we've  
30 never had much of a livestock or agricultural industry and  
31 there's not a lot of weed problems in this state. But I  
32 think there are aquatic weeds out there that if they ever got  
33 into the Innoko you'd never be able to control them. It  
34 would be, I think, an ecological train wreck. It would just  
35 change everything forever.

36  
37 So, what we're recommending is that they not do  
38 anything seeding on areas that they don't absolutely have to  
39 seed. And if there are areas where they do have to seed for  
40 erosion control or whatever, we think that they ought to try  
41 to figure out some way to collect seed locally from Native  
42 plants right in the area and try to reseed it that way, which  
43 is a great big pain for them. It's much easier to go buy some  
44 50 pound sacks of seed and plant something out there but we  
45 think it's worth the effort. So we're going to be looking  
46 real closely on that. Watching that real closely and we'll  
47 kind of keep you posted.

48  
49 The other thing I had and it has to do with pike  
50 population, Northern pike population on the Innoko. And



00253

1 there's been a lot of concern expressed down in our area  
2 about the fact that we're issuing special use permits for  
3 guided pike fishing and we don't really have any data on the  
4 pike population, and of course, that's a valid criticism.  
5 You know, most of the Federal fisheries money goes into  
6 salmon work and it's pretty hard to get any money for studies  
7 for anything other than anadromous fish. So -- but anyway,  
8 John Burr, who's a State fishery biologist out of Fairbanks,  
9 some of you know him. He was collecting some data down there  
10 on those pike last summer and we've made a commitment to work  
11 with him this summer to try to get some more information.  
12 And what we're gathering is just real basic stuff, you know,  
13 where are the fish, what are their movements, you know,  
14 length, weight, the age records, that kind of thing. And  
15 what we're doing, we're trying to pull together enough  
16 information to be able to design a study that's meaningful.  
17 Right now our state of knowledge, you know, we're so ignorant  
18 of that fishery down there that we don't even feel like we're  
19 in a position to design a study. So hopefully, after another  
20 season of collecting this information, maybe two more  
21 seasons, then we'll be in a position to do something. So  
22 we're going to keep working on that.

23  
24 And I already talked about my concerns relative to  
25 law enforcement. And again, I want to just -- I want to  
26 reemphasize that, you know, Innoko wants to be part of the  
27 law enforcement focus of this Council. We think it's  
28 legitimate and we have two projects in that's competing for  
29 Subsistence Division funding right now. One is this pike  
30 study and the other is an expanded law enforcement effort.  
31 So I just want to bring that up.

32  
33 I think that's all I had, are there any questions?

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

36  
37 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, up in the Brooks  
38 Range there's mines and then we have land slides actually  
39 occurring, like land slides which are not a whole lot unlike  
40 disturbed areas of mining. I've walked those land slides and  
41 those mining sites after -- within one year after anymore  
42 equipment moved on the ground. Willow and various species of  
43 willow had been planted in the spring time and were already  
44 embedded and by the 4th of July we already had two leaves.  
45 So in a lot of cases, it's completely unnecessary. Not -- I  
46 feel it's not necessary or -- to seed or put grasses in  
47 there, let the natural willows selections implanted and  
48 they'll sort themselves to the species that are best for the  
49 moose feed.

50

00254

1           You know, a lot of those areas grow back in beautiful  
2 brush patches.

3  
4           MR. MERRITT: Uh-huh.

5  
6           MR. REAKOFF: So I concur, that I wouldn't  
7 like to see any kind of seeding on any of these mining sites.  
8 It just puts in these foxtails and all kinds of garbage gets  
9 grown in there.

10  
11           MR. MERRITT: Yeah, I think one of these days  
12 one of these exotic superplants are going to get lose up here  
13 in Alaska and all of a sudden weeds are going to be on  
14 everybody's radar screen. But you know, it just hasn't  
15 happened yet so it's kind of hard to elevate it as an issue.

16  
17           MR. COLLINS: Except dandelions.

18  
19           MR. MERRITT: You know, I think  
20 dandelions.....

21  
22           MR. COLLINS: They're in all the villages now  
23 because somebody's brought grass seed in.

24  
25           MR. MERRITT: I think they grow on the moon,  
26 don't they?

27  
28           CHAIRMAN SAM: (Indiscernible) make some  
29 dandelion wine. Anything else? Anything for.....

30  
31           MR. MERRITT: Yeah, Benedict.

32  
33           MR. JONES: Yes. I know you did some  
34 microchip study on the pike in the Koyukuk last summer, have  
35 you done something in the community -- I mean Innoko River  
36 area?

37  
38           MR. MERRITT: Yeah, we really don't have any  
39 data on that pike population down there. I believe there was  
40 some radio tracking of a small number of fish that was done  
41 about 10 years ago or so but they were unsuccessful in  
42 tracking the fish and they just didn't generate any data. We  
43 really have almost a complete absence of data.

44  
45           MR. JONES: Thank you.

46  
47           CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything else for Ed?

48  
49           MR. MERRITT: Okay, I'll pass these letters  
50 out.

00255

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. How many more  
2 agencies do we have, how many more reports?

3  
4 MR. MATHEWS: Well, we do have  
5 Koyukuk/Nowitna. Mike Spindler wanted to talk about -- he's  
6 going to cover the Migratory Bird Treaty Update and possibly  
7 a couple other small items. And those are important, they're  
8 informative.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

11  
12 MR. MATHEWS: And we did get the resolutions  
13 back for review and signature by you, Mr. Chair. In your  
14 deliberations here I asked Jack to review both of them and he  
15 said they're both up to snuff but they're here for your  
16 signature.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have to sign them right  
19 now and get them faxed out?

20  
21 MR. MATHEWS: No, unless there's a change.  
22 Randy already has a copy of this. What I'll do is if there's  
23 no changes to these is I'll fax him a signed copy tomorrow.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

26  
27 MR. MATHEWS: If there's changes then I'll  
28 fax the changes and signed copy today. And then the other  
29 one is not as critical time factor, the one that Randy  
30 assisted in drafting. Jack's one is time dependent.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

33  
34 MR. MATHEWS: But Randy said it was fine for  
35 tomorrow.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right. Dave Anderson.

38  
39 MR. ANDERSON: This will be very brief but I  
40 want -- I realized I didn't tell the Council that I will be  
41 doing a third year of big game harvest survey in the 10  
42 communities that we've done it in the past. I was under a  
43 little bit of pressure to try and start some projects in  
44 other parts of the state but given the issues that are  
45 continuing on the Koyukuk, I was able to make a case for  
46 keeping going on this one for another year.

47  
48 I've also been talking with Mike Spindler at this  
49 meeting and I think we're going to, through his efforts, be  
50 able to add the community of Koyukuk for this year. We're

00256

1 going to work cooperatively to try and fill that hole. We  
2 didn't -- for a variety of reasons we didn't get Koyukuk last  
3 year and it looks like we've got a plan to work with U.S.  
4 Fish and Wildlife to do it. So we'll get a third year on  
5 that.

6  
7 That's all I've got.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions for Dave?

10  
11 MR. ANDERSON: Ray.

12  
13 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, are you gathering  
14 information on the amount of effort they're having to put out  
15 too? I think that's critical in when we talk about that  
16 people are having more trouble. Somebody just looks at the  
17 harvest numbers and say, well, they're all getting their  
18 moose what do you mean there's 60 percent, but they may be  
19 spending two and three times the amount of time and gas and  
20 so on as previously. So that kind of data could be critical  
21 to some of those discussions about whether subsistence is  
22 being protected or impacted by hunting.

23  
24 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah, and that's a good point.  
25 I was talking with Jack a little bit about that. We don't  
26 really have a gage on the survey for hunter days or amount of  
27 effort. But I'm going to instruct -- we do have this block  
28 on there, comments about resources. I'm going to kind of  
29 alert my survey people to, you know, if somebody's saying  
30 that they've had to spend a lot more days out hunting or --  
31 I'm going to have them looking for that kind of information  
32 to put it in a block.

33  
34 MR. COLLINS: Sometimes they just say, well,  
35 we had a hard time getting a moose this year but yet the  
36 report shows that they got a moose. And so they're feeling  
37 it but they're not putting it in words that are -- provide  
38 data. I think that's critical.

39  
40 MR. ANDERSON: You're exactly right. In  
41 these communities, they -- these hunters want a moose pretty  
42 bad.

43  
44 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

45  
46 MR. ANDERSON: And their strategy is to stay  
47 out as long as they have to stay out to get one. So you're  
48 right, the harvest numbers won't show the difficulty in  
49 people trying to get them. We'll try and come up with  
50 something to get at that.

00257

1 MR. COLLINS: Good.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Who was next? Sorry about  
4 that Dave.

5  
6 MR. SPINDLER: Mr. Chairman, Council members,  
7 thanks for giving me the opportunity to give you an update on  
8 the Migratory Bird issue. As you may have seen there's a  
9 handout at the back of the table. Basically the status of  
10 that now is that Treaty amendments have been passed. Fish  
11 and Wildlife Service is working cooperatively with the Alaska  
12 Department of Fish and Game and Native Migratory Bird Working  
13 Group to come up with a means for providing input such as you  
14 provide here for big game subsistence, to do the same for  
15 waterfowl hunting in Alaska for spring hunting regulations.  
16 The status of that is, right now, that they're trying to  
17 figure out how these management bodies will be organized, who  
18 will be on them, how often they'll meet. It's open for  
19 comment. And so I recommend at this time that if you have  
20 some strong feelings about it that you let -- there's four  
21 names and addresses on that sheet that's on the back there,  
22 if you'd let one of those people know what your  
23 recommendation is from this Council as far as handling the  
24 migratory bird issue. It will be real critical and I will  
25 show you a real life example here in just a couple of  
26 minutes.

27  
28 What I've been involved with is, some of you may have  
29 been -- heard about possible declines of one species of geese  
30 in this area, the white fronted goose, it has orange feet  
31 speckled belly. I got interested in this as a result of oral  
32 history interviews with elders from Selawik all the way down  
33 to Ruby, Kaltag and Nulato. And this oral history  
34 information caused me to take a much closer look at whatever  
35 biological data were available and I did that. And just  
36 quickly in a nutshell, that top graph shows that since 1983  
37 white fronted geese throughout northwest Alaska have been  
38 declining significantly.

39  
40 I just got back from a meeting that's very similar to  
41 this, the Central Flyaway Council which consists of all the  
42 states in the Central Flyaway plus representatives from the  
43 two provinces in Canada and also Mexico. And these are, as  
44 you are involved in, setting regulations for waterfowl in the  
45 flyaway. It's important for you to know that there is no  
46 subsistence priority for waterfowl. A sport hunter in Texas  
47 has just as much priority shooting a goose as does a guy out  
48 in a camp that needs it really badly.

49  
50 I went and made presentation to those guys regarding

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1 this. We included also information from band recoveries.  
2 And it appears one of the reasons that this decline is  
3 occurring is there are more recoveries in Alberta and in  
4 Texas because this group of birds migrates earlier than all  
5 the rest of them. And so we have some commitment from these  
6 representatives from the different states involved that they  
7 will be taking a look at the hunting season opening dates to  
8 see if they can be adjusted accordingly to maybe turn this  
9 graph the other way so it starts stabilizing. So we're  
10 working closely with the Central Flyaway Council to do that.

11  
12 Now, in a related issue, as Dave Anderson and his  
13 crew have been doing for the last number of years, we have  
14 just been involved in a survey of waterfowl harvest in the  
15 Koyukon Region based on household interviews. Without Dave's  
16 help in coordinating the methods we probably wouldn't have  
17 been as successful as we were but it worked out very good.  
18 We had local hire people in the villages doing the interviews  
19 for us. And what it showed was that geese make up about a  
20 third of the total harvest in terms of number of birds, but  
21 look at in terms of total weight. In terms of total weight  
22 they make up almost three-quarters of the harvest. So that  
23 gives you an idea of the importance of geese for subsistence  
24 in this region.

25  
26 And this bar graph, next below, shows Canada goose is  
27 the most important right now, followed by mallard, widgeon  
28 and then white fronted goose is third.

29  
30 One of the accusations that we heard from the flyaway  
31 states was well, that it is spring hunting that is clearly  
32 causing the decline. Well, this household based information  
33 here on the bottom graph where we showed that the subsistence  
34 harvest has been declining quite dramatically in the '90s.  
35 This is the harvest in Huslia. We had a similar comparison  
36 between '92 and '98 for five villages in the Koyukon Region.  
37 Again, it showed a major decline in subsistence harvest from  
38 the early '90s until late '90s.

39  
40 So what this amounts to is that there's an  
41 expectation here in the local region that now that the spring  
42 hunting will be legalized, that they'll be able to go out and  
43 get as many of the most important species as they can. But  
44 again, recognize there is no subsistence priority for  
45 migratory birds. So these management bodies will be charged  
46 with somehow setting bag limits that will continue to allow  
47 for conservation of the species and these bag limits will  
48 have to be coordinated with all the states that are involved  
49 in the different flyaways.

50

00259

1           It's particularly complicated in Alaska because we  
2 send birds -- primarily the Pacific Flyaway for wintering but  
3 also the Central Flyaway and Mississippi and to a lesser  
4 extent the Atlantic Flyaway.

5  
6           So I urge the Council here to perhaps consider making  
7 a recommendation to the Migratory Bird Working Group as to  
8 how they would like to see migratory bird regulations  
9 addressed for this region. I know there's a lot of other  
10 responsibilities on the horizon with fish and everything as  
11 well. But with this issue we are looking at a species of  
12 goose that's very important in this region and it is  
13 declining. And so we're trying to do everything we can from  
14 our standpoint in coordinating with the state, but it's also  
15 going to take a fair amount of grassroots effort from the  
16 people in the villages who are the subsistence users to stick  
17 up for the resource and be involved in the regulation setting  
18 process. And it's through your Council that you could  
19 recommend that.

20  
21           Yes.

22  
23           MR. DEACON: Yeah, is there a chance to send  
24 pictures or whatever to the villages, to tribal governments  
25 in villages so they can pass the information out to the.....

26  
27           MR. SPINDLER: Yeah, we can make this  
28 information available we have some reports. Last year when  
29 we started the harvest survey, I was on the agenda of every  
30 tribal council in the villages areas that we were working in,  
31 and we did the same thing. I showed them the graphs and why  
32 we were interested in the harvest and there was quite a bit  
33 of interest in the Central Flyaway states that we gather  
34 information that documented whether subsistence harvest was a  
35 cause of the problem or not. And '98 was our first year of  
36 getting good quality subsistence data and it appears that the  
37 number of white front geese harvested for subsistence is  
38 minuscule compared to what's harvested further down the  
39 flyaway and the sport harvest.

40  
41           So in our meeting just last week in Oklahoma, I was  
42 asked point blank, I showed them the series of pictures of  
43 what people's lifestyle is like in Alaska in the varying  
44 degrees of reliance on migratory birds for subsistence,  
45 ranging from someone in a village to both people in a family  
46 have jobs and they don't need the birds to someone living out  
47 in a camp and they have no jobs and they need those birds  
48 when they show up. And so you have all kinds of spectrums of  
49 reliance. And I was asked the question, are people getting  
50 the geese that they want to be getting. And from our

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1 interviews that we conducted last spring the answer was no.  
2 And we did ask how many days they were hunting waterfowl and  
3 also how far from the village they went for hunting  
4 waterfowl. And then the majority of the people answered that  
5 they were not getting the geese that they really wanted to  
6 get for subsistence.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

9  
10 MR. COLLINS: You mentioned the declining  
11 harvest of them, was that because of the more difficult  
12 effort or the fact that there are actually a decline in  
13 hunting pressure, I mean that they're doing less hunting now  
14 because of other changes in the villages?

15  
16 MR. SPINDLER: I think it's a combination of  
17 both. With the Huslia graph, I'm not certain of those early  
18 years of '83 if we have information on how much effort was  
19 expended in those years. For '98, of course, we have that  
20 information but the earlier years, I just hired someone in  
21 Huslia to do a door-to-door survey to ask about goose  
22 harvest. I didn't get involved in the other details.

23  
24 My gut feeling is that it's a combination of  
25 declining availability of geese and declining reliance  
26 because there are more jobs and more freezers in the villages  
27 so it's a combination of the two.

28  
29 Any other questions?

30  
31 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

34  
35 MR. REAKOFF: I was wondering what kind of --  
36 is there discussion of like licensing and duck stamps and all  
37 that stuff for the spring hunt and among this bag limit?

38  
39 MR. SPINDLER: Yeah. Basically once it  
40 becomes legalized, steel shot requirements go into effect,  
41 duck stamps come into effect -- State/Federal duck stamps,  
42 all that will have to be regulated.

43  
44 Now, there is, as I mentioned, because of this high  
45 reliance on geese in this region, there's kind of a built in  
46 expectation among the people in the villages that, oh, yeah,  
47 it's going to be legal, we can go out and shoot what we need.  
48 In the case of this species, we clearly can't recommend very  
49 liberal bag limits and so this is going to have to be ironed  
50 out between the Central Flyaway states and this management



00261

1 body that has yet to be formed.

2

3 So my recommendation is is that the Council, at some  
4 point, consider what their viewpoint is on how they would  
5 like to see migratory bird harvest regulations addressed in  
6 this region and let those people know on that list what their  
7 preferences are. Right now is the time when they're deciding  
8 what approach to take. I mean they could decide to add those  
9 duties to your duties. I've been told that's probably not  
10 the approach they're going to take. They may be talking  
11 about a whole state wide body just to address the birds, just  
12 one management body. They may be talking about different  
13 regional bodies. So I think this is a very important issue.  
14 IT regards not only white fronted geese but a lot of other  
15 subsistence waterfowl that are harvested in this area. And I  
16 know that the further west you go and the closer to the coast  
17 you go, there's a lot more reliance on migratory birds than  
18 there is in this area.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Henry.

21

22 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, sir.

23

24 MR. DEACON: It sounds like this is just  
25 education in the villages.

26

27 MR. SPINDLER: Yeah. And I think we can get  
28 the information out there. We plan to visit every village  
29 again this spring as part of setting up the waterfowl harvest  
30 survey and getting information out on the population status.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: I would urge you to start  
33 hitting every type of Council right now. We will have some  
34 people out there plus I'd like a letter addressing all the  
35 rules and regulations that we have to go by. I mean what has  
36 to be followed, the steel shot and bag limits, if it's  
37 bagless, and all that, plus the reporting of take.

38

39 MR. SPINDLER: There will not be any  
40 regulations in place for '99. They're looking at 2000 at the  
41 earliest to get these in place.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: But a letter should go out  
44 stating that things like steel shot, use of these and all the  
45 other stuff that goes with it, duck stamps, will be coming  
46 mandatory sooner or later. I'd like that out as soon as you  
47 could, the quicker we get this message out the faster we can  
48 put it into use -- effective use.

49

50 Benedict.

1 MR. JONES: On flyaways, as I heard you  
2 mention yesterday, that they're over harvesting our -- in  
3 Texas and other states where flyaways -- I know last meeting  
4 in Allakaket it was brought up but nothing has been done  
5 through the Council on this. But if there is a future  
6 meeting for the Flyaway Committees, I don't know how many  
7 committees you have on the Flyaways through Canada and Mexico  
8 and those places, but I would like to see one of our  
9 representatives from each Council throughout Alaska to attend  
10 this flyaway committee meeting so we can bring up our  
11 problems on our harvest in Alaska and what the subsistence  
12 used for.

13  
14 MR. SPINDLER: I need to correct you on that  
15 over harvest statement. What I meant to say is -- and let me  
16 make this clear, is what's happening is the birds in Interior  
17 Alaska are the only white fronted geese that nest in the  
18 forested areas. The rest of the geese in this population,  
19 all the way across to Hudson Bay, Canada, nest in tundra and  
20 they are -- in the Arctic, where the nesting season is later.  
21 So what happens is these birds migrate early, they arrive in  
22 Alberta early. They get shot uniquely there and they're  
23 vulnerable because the other birds haven't arrived yet. They  
24 migrate again early to Texas Panhandle. They are apparently  
25 getting shot there because the other birds haven't arrived  
26 yet and mixed up. So the people in those jurisdictions are  
27 taking a look at a minor adjustment and season opening dates  
28 that could help this population. As far as the whole  
29 population is concerned, all the way from Canada to Alaska,  
30 it's not being over harvested it's growing. It's just this  
31 segment. This regional segment here that's having some  
32 problems because of its early migration and because of the  
33 hunting pressure where it runs into it.

34  
35 But as to the representation on the Flyaway Councils,  
36 in that handout that's in the back, that is one of the things  
37 that -- ideas that's been talked about is, that whatever  
38 management body is established for migratory birds in Alaska,  
39 they would then appoint a member that would attend every  
40 Flyaway Council meeting down in the Lower 48, and that's  
41 three times a year in the Lower 48. And the Central Flyaway  
42 alternates between Texas and every state all the way up to  
43 the Canada border and back and forth. Pacific Flyaway does  
44 the same along the Pacific Coast.

45  
46 It gets very complicated because you're talking about  
47 many states and two countries besides the United States,  
48 Canada and Mexico.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

00263

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chair, and just to  
2 remind you that we did have that workshop at the last meeting  
3 in Allakaket on this, and they did ask, I know you didn't  
4 make specific recommendations on makeup of the management  
5 bodies. Also I did ask if there would be a copy of the --  
6 what are they calling it, draft plan on this for this  
7 meeting, but it's not done. So it's going to come out here  
8 soon.

9  
10 It does seem like you have high interest in this. It  
11 might be -- I'm pretty sure they're going to send it to you  
12 anyways, but it might be wise to request that copies of the  
13 draft plan be sent to each Council member on this Council and  
14 then beyond that if you want. I believe they're going to do  
15 that. I'm trying to find out if they're going to have a -- I  
16 think they'll have the final plan for the fall meeting, your  
17 fall meeting, but I'm not sure if it was final or draft. And  
18 I'm seeing if Taylor has anymore additional information?

19  
20 MR. BRELSFORD: The dates are in the first  
21 paragraph of that flyer.

22  
23 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The way I read it is  
24 that after public comment period on the draft plan that  
25 they'll be preparing a final plan during the summer of 1999.  
26 So I'm kind of echoing Mike's request here to -- when you get  
27 copies of this plan to comment on the -- the two key  
28 questions were the make up of the management groups and the  
29 area of jurisdiction. Remember, the options were one big,  
30 for the whole state, subregions, Native corporation -- or I  
31 mean regional corporation boundaries, I don't remember the  
32 other one. There was another option out there.

33  
34 It might be wise to -- you know, you request that  
35 copies of this plan -- I'm pretty sure they're going to do it  
36 but I'd rather, you know, I can carry that forward for you,  
37 that copies of this draft plan be copied to you individually.  
38 Obviously you cannot meet before they draft the final.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: So what kind of action do we  
41 need on this? Direct you to.....

42  
43 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, just direct me.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

46  
47 MR. MATHEWS: My discretionary.....

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: So ordered.

50

00264

1 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. But it  
2 is important.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, it is. The sooner we get  
5 involved in this and get our local and tribal councils  
6 involved, I think the better off that the transition will be  
7 as to following all the rules and regulations that will be  
8 mandatory by the year 2000.

9  
10 MR. MATHEWS: And I also forgot one thing.  
11 You do have it in your book under Tab W.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

14  
15 MR. MATHEWS: Because I know some of you take  
16 this back and share this with your villages. So you do have  
17 the information that Mike's been referencing on the back  
18 table, you have a copy in your book.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's what I thought.

21  
22 MR. MATHEWS: And it's pretty well written  
23 with key points so I would look at that also.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything else for Mr.  
26 Spindler? Did you have anything else?

27  
28 MR. SPINDLER: No, I didn't. Thank you for  
29 the chance to address you on this issue.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I just briefly glanced  
32 through it. With all the rules and regulations that we'll be  
33 covering our legal hunts, we've got to get some of this stuff  
34 in place beforehand, and thanks for your help.

35  
36 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Orville, did you have a  
39 report?

40  
41 MR. O. HUNTINGTON: I can answer questions if  
42 you have questions.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think we've been hitting you  
45 pretty hard. Any questions for Orville from the Council?  
46 Did we have anymore agency reports?

47  
48 MR. MATHEWS: MR. Chairman, I think the  
49 Council should thank the agencies for waiting this long to  
50 give their reports. We have gone through a transition with

00265

1 your agendas to have the fall meeting where they have fairly  
2 major reports and at this meeting, the winter meeting not  
3 having it, but they did have some items to bring up and I  
4 know Ulvi's not here, but to wait all the way through to  
5 share during that confusion. That I'm sure that you would  
6 want to show appreciation for them waiting on that. But  
7 because of the action items that are necessary that's why in  
8 the agenda, unless you direct me differently, why agency  
9 reports are towards the end is to make sure we get the action  
10 items of proposals, planning processes and annual reports  
11 done before we get into agency reports.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, yes. And just for your  
14 information you notice how things turned out, this Council  
15 has been pretty aggressive in utilizing all the Staff and all  
16 the agencies.

17  
18 MR. MATHEWS: Uh-huh.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: And if you look around, even  
21 those that have left, we've pretty much hit them pretty hard  
22 on the hot seat in one way, form or another. And I'd like to  
23 thank them for staying here. But it has always been my  
24 intent to utilize their expertise to the fullest extent and  
25 that's why we -- I forgot to thank them at the Allakaket  
26 meeting, even though our subsistence Council meeting was  
27 over, a good number of our State and Federal Staff stayed  
28 over for the Koyukuk River Advisory Council for the State,  
29 you know. So I'd like to thank you again for that part and  
30 thank you again for your participation in this one, because  
31 that meant a lot to us and really get Koyukuk River Moose  
32 Management off the ground by you people staying there that  
33 extra day at Allakaket even though the accommodations weren't  
34 the best. Thank you again.

35  
36 Is there anything further on the reports? Like I  
37 said, I tend to utilize each and every agency and their staff  
38 out here. Thank you.

39  
40 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that leaves us  
41 with the item of time and place of next meeting, I believe.  
42 And we have a calendar that's more up to date than what's in  
43 your book. Once you get them then I'll give my little spiel  
44 of what I know so far about it.

45  
46 Okay, now that you have a calendar in front of you, I  
47 think I shared with you guys individually but I'll do it for  
48 the record, we have now shifted our window of when you can  
49 have meetings, more into October. Before it started midway  
50 in September, it really doesn't effect you but I needed to

00266

1 inform you that we have changed the window when you can meet.  
2 But you guys have always generally met the first or second or  
3 third week of October. You always met in October. And so  
4 that explains why this window of events of September 27th  
5 through November 5th is when you can meet.

6  
7 Eastern Interior, you'll see down there is October  
8 6th and 7th, that was their first choice with a second choice  
9 of a backup, Community of Eagle. The third one was to  
10 explore with you having a joint Eastern/Western Regional  
11 Council meeting in Fairbanks on October 6th, 7th and 8th. So  
12 that's all the information that I have on dates. And if  
13 possible -- well, we don't have enough data to do that but we  
14 try to avoid having three or four -- above three Regional  
15 Council meetings in a week. As you've seen there's been  
16 Staff here from Anchorage. An example, like Greg McClelland  
17 here covers North Slope as well as Eastern and Western  
18 Interior. If all three met in the same week, I don't know  
19 how he'd split himself. But so we try to avoid that.

20  
21 But the dates are in front of you there. And I know  
22 that individually you've talked to me about other locations  
23 for meeting.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have any feelings at  
26 this time, Jack? The reason I ask is because there'll be  
27 foreseen fisheries closure at a joint meeting with the  
28 Eastern Interior sounds pretty good to me because at that  
29 time all the Staff wouldn't have to travel very far and we'd  
30 have all the accommodations and everything. But how critical  
31 it turns out to be is another matter. Do you think it would  
32 warrant some thoughts to have two days of our meeting or one  
33 day of our meeting.....

34  
35 MR. REAKOFF: Well, that was the reason that  
36 the Eastern Interior wanted to have a joint meeting, just in  
37 case we got involved in fisheries?

38  
39 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. They wanted to start the  
40 process of coordination, cooperation across the region. And  
41 they wanted to hear your concerns on fisheries directly.

42  
43 MR. REAKOFF: I would be in favor of a joint  
44 meeting contingency if we do take up the fisheries issue. If  
45 we don't -- if that falls by the wayside, then we can have  
46 another meeting point. I'd rather have it within our region.

47  
48 MR. COLLINS: Didn't I hear though that it  
49 would be a year from this.....

50

00267

1 MR. MATHEWS: There is some concern that we  
2 could not respond in time, you know, we couldn't turn it  
3 around if we didn't go into fisheries. I mean consulting  
4 with others, the State Legislature could have a special  
5 session late in September. We would have -- it would be hard  
6 to move.....

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: We can't predict or project  
9 what will happen with that.

10  
11 MR. MATHEWS: No.

12  
13 MR. COLLINS: Why not coordinate the spring  
14 meeting next year when they would be into it.

15  
16 MR. MATHEWS: Well, that -- Ron did talk to  
17 me about that and then there was some logic of having the  
18 joint meeting at the spring one, or winter one, a year from  
19 now. Because then you would be fully into -- the program  
20 would be flushed out and it would be -- the wheels would be  
21 greased and air in the tires and all that kind of stuff.  
22 October we'll just be starting it up.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, the battle just  
25 beginning.

26  
27 MR. COLLINS: I'd like you to consider  
28 McGrath maybe if we're going to deal with the wanton waste.  
29 We've got somebody there that's processing meat and that's  
30 one of the points where meat goes through. Innoko's  
31 involved. It might be a good location for that kind of  
32 discussion. In fact, it'll probably still be going through  
33 there, you can probably go down and see -- if you go early in  
34 October, there'll still be people at the airport. Willow Air  
35 works through there. But that's one suggestion, you haven't  
36 met there for a while. It's been a couple years.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: About one year. To tell the  
39 truth, Galena and McGrath are our kind of hubs where we can  
40 get in real quick with accommodations and all. But I also  
41 considered Aniak.

42  
43 MR. HENRY: Yeah, I think Aniak would be  
44 better.

45  
46 MR. COLLINS: Do you?

47  
48 MR. HENRY: Yeah.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: So I'll throw out Ruby again,

00268

1 and the reasoning behind Ruby is.....

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Ruby, I talked to you  
4 because historically we have not had representation from Ruby  
5 and Ruby is a community that's dependent on the resources of  
6 Nowitna. But I've had no consultation with Ruby and no  
7 discussions with them, it was just -- oh, that's right we did  
8 have Sharon, I forgot about Sharon. We did have a Council  
9 member from Ruby. I had forgot, worked on advisory  
10 committees, her husband and her, advisory -- but anyways, we  
11 did have someone from Ruby on there but we have not since.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: And whatever, I mean so that's  
16 where Ruby was suggested. I don't know if fall would be a  
17 good time for them or not. What I think we were looking at  
18 is the parameters that it would be wise to meet on a river  
19 system because we're going to be talking about fisheries most  
20 likely. And then the other was discussion of possible  
21 regional hub.

22

23 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I concur that  
24 Aniak would probably be -- we haven't been down on that end  
25 of this region and Aniak is probably appropriate.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Aniak it is.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. What would be an  
30 alternate community if.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: McGrath.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Aniak, McGrath, okay.  
35 And then we need to look at dates.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Second week -- or first week  
38 in October.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: And Ray brought up at past  
41 meetings and I don't want to lost site of that, all the dates  
42 that are listed there are open to you. That includes  
43 weekends and et cetera.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you cover Eastern Interior,  
46 too?

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. You would have to avoid  
49 the 6th and 7th, but -- with travel time, too, the 5th  
50 through the 8th would be blocked out because we would be in



00269

1 travel. But what I'm really getting at is that if -- if it's  
2 convenient for the Council to -- you know, weekends are  
3 there. I wanted to correct that. In the past there was a  
4 misunderstanding.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, I'd rather stay away from  
7 weekends.

8  
9 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Eastern Interior, they're  
12 going to have a meeting at Fort Yukon?

13  
14 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, they're going to have a  
15 meeting in Fort Yukon if we can get housing arranged and  
16 lodging all arranged.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: 14th, 15th, travel the 13th --  
19 travel the 12th.

20  
21 MR. REAKOFF: With Yukon-Delta's meeting, we  
22 could teleconference with their Council if we have to, it  
23 would be overlapping right there on Wednesday.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: So travel okay on the 12th.

26  
27 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, 13th, 14th, Aniak.

30  
31 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, if those arrangements  
32 cannot be made I just need one more backup. Would we then  
33 look at another week or days. We really have gone to  
34 those.....

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

37  
38 MR. MATHEWS: But is there another backdate  
39 -- dates, excuse me.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: 18th through the 20th,  
42 somewhere in there.

43  
44 MR. MATHEWS: There is AFN that week just so  
45 you know.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, we'll just jump on the  
48 plane from Aniak and go to AFN.

49  
50 MR. MATHEWS: So the 18th through the 20th

00270

1 would be the backup dates; is that agreeable?

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's fine with you, Ray?

4

5 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. What was the second  
6 date?

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: 18th, 19th.

9

10 MR. COLLINS: 18th, 19th, oh, okay.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's AFN week.

13

14 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: We'll have all the people who  
17 left, the town to ourselves. Or do you want it earlier?

18

19 MR. COLLINS: No, that's okay, I think.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: But we'll put it up on the  
22 12th.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Right. You'll travel on the  
25 12th, meet on the 13th and 14th, if needed, you can  
26 teleconference with the Yukon-Kuskokwim on the 13th.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. That's a wise move with  
31 that.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Anything else? Was  
34 there anything else on the agenda?

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Not that I can.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anymore concerns by  
39 Council.....

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, there is one and let me  
42 quickly do it. What I have captured here for topics for the  
43 next meeting would be the wanton waste workshop. Gates of  
44 the Arctic requested that their subsistence management plan  
45 be added to the agenda. Caribou seasons in Unit 24 be added  
46 to the agenda. And Proposals 45 -- 44, which was the closure  
47 of the Innoko -- northern part of the Innoko Refuge, and 45,  
48 the season in the GASH area. I believe that's it that I had  
49 for topics for that agenda.

50

00271

1 MR. COLLINS: Well, I think we'll want to  
2 know what came out of the work group that's going together,  
3 add it on, and certainly what happened in the fall so we can  
4 see whether the numbers are up, down and those kinds of  
5 things on the Kanuti. They were talking about better  
6 cooperation up there at the checkpoint and all of that.

7  
8 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

9  
10 MR. COLLINS: That way we could generate  
11 better proposals for the spring, that's when Interior issues  
12 come up, next spring on the State level.

13  
14 MR. MATHEWS: Right. And then also the  
15 status report on the guide, outfitter, air taxi use on  
16 Federal public lands.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Plus our annual elections.

19  
20 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, yeah, right, annual  
21 elections, correct.

22  
23 MR. COLLINS: Well, then it should be made  
24 then this summer for our seats that are up, we'll know.....

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Usually by.....

27  
28 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, the seats that would be  
29 up for the SRCs, if that's what you're talking about, you  
30 would do appointments.

31  
32 MR. REAKOFF: No, Council members, when are  
33 our seats.....

34  
35 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, you'll be reappointed by --  
36 meaning the selection process will have appointments by  
37 September, maybe sooner this year.

38  
39 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.

40  
41 MR. MATHEWS: But September is generally when  
42 we have it. And for those that are sitting on seats that are  
43 open, you serve until replaced.

44  
45 MR. COLLINS: Right.

46  
47 MR. MATHEWS: It's kind of a life sentence.

48  
49 MR. COLLINS: Let's hope not, I'd hope to  
50 live a little longer.

00272

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything else from anyone.

2

3 MR. GOOD: I want to thank you for coming  
4 here. If there's anything else, you know, in the future  
5 maybe to improve, let me know or let Vince know so that we  
6 can work on those things.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, I'd like to extend my  
9 thanks to the Staff present. It took a lot of bearing with  
10 us and as you notice every one of you hit the hot seat in one  
11 way, form or another. And hopefully we get reappointed and  
12 meet with you again. Thanks for all your input.

13

14 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

17

18 MR. REAKOFF: I also want to extend my thanks  
19 to the Staff and to the local people for showing up and  
20 giving testimony.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

23

24 MR. REAKOFF: I also thank the Chair for  
25 doing a great job during this meeting and keeping us all in  
26 line here, keeping our lines tight.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any other comments?

29

30 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, if I may, I'd  
31 like to echo some of the compliments that were offered to you  
32 on the Council today about the quality of your discussion on  
33 the resource issues. In looking at the proposals yesterday  
34 there was a lot of discussion, a lot of detailed appraisal of  
35 the resource status, that was really quite striking. And I  
36 think on the resource planning issues that you've worked  
37 with, struggled with today, the concern for the long-term  
38 health of those resources and for representing speaking out  
39 for the needs of the villages is very strong, very mature  
40 work. It was really a great pleasure to be here again. It's  
41 been a couple of years since I've joined this Council for a  
42 meeting, and it was really quite a joy.

43

44 So I thank you and I echo the compliments that others  
45 have offered to you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. And just remind  
48 Tom Boyd that he's always welcome to our meetings, too. Any  
49 other comments, closing comments, Staff? If not the Chair  
50 will entertain a motion to adjourn.

00273

1 MR. REAKOFF: So moved.

2  
3 MR. COLLINS: So moved.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: All at once. Is there a  
6 second?

7  
8 MR. DEACON: Second.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: All in favor of the motion  
11 signify by saying aye.

12  
13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

16  
17 (No opposing responses)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

20  
21 (Off record)

22  
23 (MEETING ADJOURNED)

24  
25 \* \* \* \* \*

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA                   )  
   ) ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA                                 )

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 142 through 273 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of VOLUME II, WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING, taken electronically by David Haynes on the 11th day of March, 1999, beginning at the hour of 8:30 o'clock a.m. at the Old Community Hall, Galena, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction to the best of my knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 22ND day of March, 1999.

Joseph P. Kolasinski  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 4/17/00